

Field Visit Report

CECOEDECON



Submitted By

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Executive Summary

The visit to CECOEDECON provided valuable insights into community development, sustainable livelihoods, rural empowerment, women empowerment, and rights-based development approaches. CECOEDECON is a Jaipur-based nonprofit organisation dedicated to inclusive, sustainable, and rights-based development, working across livelihoods, health, education, gender equality, child protection, climate change, and governance.

The visit included detailed presentations on the organisation's journey, focus areas, and key programmes such as SWABHIMAAN, Child Development Projects, Access to Justice, Digital Disha, SUZTAIN, Anubhuti, and School Mitra. It provided practical exposure to project planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and field-level operations.

Key learnings included the role of NGOs in community development, the importance of community participation, women's empowerment, capacity building, stakeholder partnerships, and effective management practices. The visit also highlighted challenges such as limited financial resources, low literacy levels, rural accessibility, gender inequality, environmental issues, and sustainability of programmes. Overall, the experience deepened our understanding of grassroots development and the importance of inclusive, sustainable, and participatory approaches to social transformation

Introduction

The Centre for Community Economics and Development Consultants Society (CECOEDECON) is a Jaipur-based nonprofit organisation dedicated to inclusive, sustainable, and rights-based development. Established with the vision of building empowered communities that can assert their rights, CECOEDECON works across multiple thematic areas including livelihoods, health, education, gender equality, child protection, climate change, and governance. Over the years, it has emerged as a catalyst for grassroots action and policy advocacy, with strong emphasis on collectivization, community institutions, and people-centric development models.

Mission:

To enhance the capacities of the marginalized communities and other partners, by engaging in multiple strategies at different levels, so that they are able to take action independently to secure their rights for long-term well-being.

Vision:

To achieve such development which is socially acceptable, economically viable, environmentally sound, effective in impact and addressing to needs and issues of the under-privileged and marginalized people.

Journey:

CECOEDECON has evolved from a grassroot support organisation to a multi-sectoral development catalyst over the past four decades. It emerged in 1981 when the district of Chaksu was heavily affected by the floods of Dhundh river. Social workers in KASA started land reclamation and that's how CECOEDECON was formed. It was registered in 1982.

During the first two decades of its emergence, CECOEDECON focused on the natural resources management approach, i.e., establishment of early community-based organizations and initial soil and water conservation.

The next decade at CECOEDECON was based on the rights-based approach, focusing on the verticals of education, health and microfinancing where in SHG were formed at the block level and loans were sanctioned with a minimal or zero percent interest rate. It also focused on disaster preparedness, women's leadership and sustainable agricultural practices. In 2010, climate resilience, natural resource management and child rights became central themes.

Currently, CECOEDECON's work is based on the theme-based approach, which involves three verticals, namely, economic justice i.e., to increase the farm income, basic rights, focusing on areas like sexual and reproductive health, adolescent girls, skill development, gender-based violence, etc. and civil society and institutional development.

Currently supporting Country Programme

From 2020 onwards, it has Pan Rajasthan presence with flagship programmes such as PIIRD supported by MISEREOR, SWABHIMAAN supported by UNFPA, and Child Development Projects supported by India, Child Fund International, and others.

Reach:

CECOEDECON functions in 3 states, namely, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Haryana. It has covered 16 districts in 3 states, 15+ blocks, over 500 villages. The initiatives have reached approximately 1,700 children under Child Development Projects, 700+ adolescent girls have been trained, 400+ farmers engaged in Climate Resilient Agriculture and 500+ CBOs have been strengthened.

It builds partnerships with local communities, Panchayati Raj Institutions, civil society actors, and government departments to foster systemic change.

Focus Areas:

The three main focus areas/ thematic interventions of CECOEDECON are:

1. Livelihood security: These interventions under PIIRD Phase IX and other supported programs were designed to build climate resilience, promote food security, and diversify rural incomes-especially for small and marginal farmers and women. This area includes, integrated farming models, organic farming and vermicomposting, vermicompost units, non-farm livelihoods, technology transfer training and kitchen gardens poshan vaticas.
2. Basic Rights: The theme focuses on gender equity, adolescent empowerment, sexual and reproductive health, governance capacity-building and elimination of gender-based violence. Key activities include, adolescent girls' groups, digital sakhi initiative, career and employability workshops, self-defense training, leadership development and PSEA policy implementation.
3. Institutional Development: This focus area reinforces the democratic functioning of community-based organizations (CBOs), including Kisan Sewa Samiti (KSS), Village Development Committees (VDCs), and youth forums. Key activities are KSS elections

and leadership trainings, youth federations and sammelans, leave no one behind (LNOB), climate shaala and pre-CoP events and CBO-Govt convergence meetings.

Objectives

1. To gain insights into the various projects being run by CECOEDECON
2. To understand their planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, the real-life challenges faced and their management.

Executive Committee Members

1. Mr. Rajeev Sahai – Chairperson
2. Dr. Meeta Singh – Co-Chairperson
3. Mrs. Manju Bala Joshi – Secretary
4. Mrs. Sumati Vishnoi – Treasurer
5. Mrs. H. Bedi – Member
6. Dr. Manish K. Jha – Member
7. Dr. Shipra Mathur – Member
8. Mr. Kunal Jain – Member
9. Mr. Vikas Nagda – Member

Partners

1. Government of Rajasthan
2. MISEREOR
3. Government of India
4. Empower
5. Nor Fund
6. UNFPA
7. Child Fund
8. HDFC Bank
9. SUZLON
10. Chambal Fertilisers and Chemicals Limited
11. WOTR
12. Satyarthi
13. Renew Power

Programmes In Action

1. SWABHIMAAN:

- Advancing SRHR in Rajasthan; Supported by UNFPA
- This five-year initiative focuses on ensuring gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) for women and girls through system strengthening, youth engagement, community mobilization and policy advocacy.
- It has three verticals: Sexual and reproductive health and rights for women and girls, Gender based violence, Youth and adolescent.
- Women and Girl Friendly Gram Panchayat (WGFGP) is a flagship programme of Swabhimaan.
- Key Highlights:
 - 11 out of given target of 12 health facilities are LaQshaya certified.
 - 1126 police personnel capacitated on Gender Responsive Policing.
 - 151 dropped out girls linked with State open school.
 - 30 safety audits conducted.
 - 100 out of school girls were enrolled in schools.
 - Gender responsive training for elected representatives, PRI members, and Mahila Sabhas.

2. Child Development Projects:

- Supported by Child Fund International
- It is a holistic programme aimed at improving health, education, livelihoods, and child protection for underprivileged children and adolescents across two regions of Rajasthan.
- Key Highlights:
 - Reached approximately 2600 children.
 - 90 children received remedial support through child learning centres.
 - 455 families supported with nutrition garden kits.
 - 120 youth received career counselling.
 - 15 girls received sewing machines to initiate self-employment.
 - Over 290 youth engaged in youth festivals across Pachkodiya and Tapukara.
 - 74 youth participated in livelihood exposure visits and agriculture entrepreneurship training.

3. Access To Justice:

- Child protection in Tonk and Jaisalmer.
- Supported by Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation (KSCF).
- Focused on strengthening community-level child protection systems and working closely with police, Child Welfare Committees, and education departments to address child sexual abuse, trafficking, child labour and child marriage.
- Key Highlights:
 - Addressed a total of 3250 child protection cases in FY 2024-25.
 - Supported restoration and case referrals through CWCs in Jaisalmer and Tonk.

4. Digital Disha:

- Empowering Rural Youth through Digital Literacy.
- Implemented by CECOEDECON in Madhorajpura block of Rajasthan, was launched in April 2024.
- The initiative responded to critical challenges including limited digital access, social mobility restrictions, and lack of career guidance.
- Key Highlights:
 - 110 youth enrolled in the RS-CIT digital literacy course.
 - 16 youth trained in Tally accounting software.
 - Over 120 youth directly benefitted, majority being adolescent girls.
 - Improved digital skills, self-confidence and career aspirations.
 - Enhanced parental support and community acceptance of girls' mobility.

5. SUZTAIN:

- Sustainable Development in Suzlon Neighbourhoods.
- Supported by: Suzlon Foundation.
- This program covers 100 villages in Jodhpur and Jaisalmer, promoting green livelihoods and resource conservation.
- Key Highlights:
 - 5,326 trees planted.
 - 1,500 kitchen gardens supported.
 - 4 traditional water bodies (nadis) de-silted.
 - Seeds and horticulture inputs distributed to 500+ households.
 - Project review held with Suzlon Foundation and field teams.

6. Anubhuti:

- Building Resilient Rural Communities.
- CECOEDECON, in collaboration with HDFC Bank, implemented the project across Loharu Block, Bhiwani district, Haryana.
- Through active community participation led by Village Development Committee (VDC), the project empowered small and marginal farmers and improved educational infrastructure in five village schools.
- Key Highlights:
 - Set up modern classrooms with libraries, science labs and Smart TVs.
 - Led to enhanced learning outcomes and increased student engagement.
 - 47 solar water pumps distributed to smallholder farms for eco-friendly irrigation.
 - 40 drip irrigation kits promoted water conservation and efficient farming.
 - Establishment of 2 Farm Resource Centres (FRCs) in Baralu and Dighawa Shamiyan for shared tools and training.
 - 2 solar dryers provided for collective spice/ vegetable drying.
 - 5 cooling chambers installed to reduce post-harvest losses and improve market prices.

7. School Mitra:

- Enhancing Educational Infrastructure.
- Funded by ReNew Power and implemented by CECOEDECON in Jaipur district.

- The project aims to strengthen the foundational learning environment for students by transforming infrastructure across 11 government schools.
- Key Highlights:
 - Infrastructure upgraded in 11 Government schools.
 - Installation of digital learning interactive panels (TV).
 - Construction and repair of toilet blocks to promote hygiene, especially for adolescent girls.
 - Separate and functional toilets for boys and girls ensured in all targeted schools.
 - Provision of safe drinking water systems including water coolers and RO units.
 - Improved student health and school attendance, especially during summer months.

CECOEDECON–UNFPA Collaborative Programmes

1. Strengthening Beti Bachao Beti Padhao – Sawai Madhopur

- CECOEDECON, with technical and financial support from UNFPA, strengthened **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)** in Sawai Madhopur, focusing on prevention of gender-biased sex selection, protection of girls and promotion of girls' education.
- Key Highlights:
 - **2,488 girls** engaged, including **908 out-of-school girls**.
 - Coverage across **90 Gram Panchayats**.
 - **7 Girl-Friendly Gram Panchayats** developed as models.
 - Life-skills education, mentoring and self-defence training provided to girls.
 - Teachers and frontline workers trained on **gender, POCSO, PCPNDT and child marriage**.

2. Girl-Friendly Gram Panchayat (GFGP) Model

- The **Girl-Friendly Gram Panchayat** model promotes gender-responsive local governance by integrating girls' safety, education, health and participation into Panchayat-level planning and decision-making.
- Key Highlights:
 - Development of **7 model Girl-Friendly Gram Panchayats**.
 - Capacity building of elected representatives and **PRI members**.
 - Strengthening of **Mahila Sabhas** and women's participation.
 - **Gender safety audits** conducted to identify risks faced by girls.
 - Guidelines and processes developed for replication of the model.

3. Integrated Programme Delivery through System Strengthening

- Implemented in **Sawai Madhopur, Udaipur and Jaisalmer**, the programme aimed to strengthen government systems and improve access to services for **young people, women and girls**, particularly in adolescent and sexual and reproductive health.
- **Key Highlights:**
 - Strengthening of **sexual and reproductive health services**.
 - Capacity building of government officials, health workers and frontline workers.
 - Support for **Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK)**.
 - Strengthening of community-level outreach to adolescents and young people.
 - Facilitation of **inter-departmental convergence and review mechanisms**.

4. YUVAW – Youth United to Address Violence Against Women

- YUVAW is a youth initiative in **Sawai Madhopur** that engages boys and young men as allies in promoting **gender equality and preventing violence against women and girls**.
- **Key Highlights:**
 - Promotes **positive masculinity and gender-equitable attitudes**.
 - Encourages young men to challenge **gender stereotypes and discriminatory norms**.
 - Creates platforms for discussion on **gender, masculinity and violence against women**.
 - Engages boys and men in conversations around **menstrual health and gender equality**.
 - Builds young men as **community-level allies for prevention of gender-based violence**.

Visit Details

<u>S. No.</u>	<u>Session details</u>	<u>Date & Timing</u>
1.	<u>Welcome of IIHMR-U students by staff:</u> The staff extended a warm welcome to us, followed by a round of formal introductions.	August 19 th 2026, 10:00 AM to 10:15AM
2.	<u>Briefing about the organisation:</u> The staff introduced us to the history of the organisation, its journey, development and the partners.	August 19 th 2026, 10:15 AM to 10:30 AM
3.	<u>Briefing about the ongoing projects:</u> The project manager briefed us about the ongoing projects of CECOEDECON, their planning and implementation.	August 19 th 2026, 10:30 AM to 10:45 AM

4.	<u>Detailing about SWABHIMAAN Project:</u> The project manager gave us a detailed presentation on the SWABHIMAAN Project which is funded by UNFPA and implemented by CECOEDECON.	August 19 th 2026, 10:45 AM to 11:15 AM
5.	<u>Briefing on LaQshya:</u> The consultants of CECOEDECON in NHM briefed us about the LaQshya, its benefits implementation in the districts of Rajasthan. It is a quality improvement program which helps to reduce MMR and promote safe delivery practices with an added component of dignity in the state.	August 19 th 2026, 11:15 AM to 11:45 PM
6.	<u>Briefing on family planning programs run by NHM in Rajasthan:</u> The consultants of CECOEDECON in NHM connected with us virtually and briefed us about the family planning programme being run in the state of Rajasthan and how it has helped to reduce the TFR. An app has been introduced through which ASHAs can indent and order stocks for family planning services. We were also told about the new injectable contraceptive (once in 3 years) being implemented on a large scale.	August 19 th 2026, 11:45 PM TO 12:30 PM
7.	<u>Discussion:</u> There was a round of discussion during which the staff shared with us the various insights and challenges faced in the field during the different phases of the project cycle. It also included a questions and answers round during which our groups' doubts and questions were duly answered by the staff and project managers.	August 19 th 2026, 12:30 PM TO 12:45 PM
8.	<u>Vote of Thanks:</u> The visit ended with a warm exchange of thanks followed by clicking geotagged pictures and our departure to the University.	August 19 th 2026, 12:45 PM TO 1:00 PM

Key Learnings

The visit to CECOEDECON was an enriching experience as it helped us to gain insights into community development, sustainable livelihoods, rural empowerment, women empowerment, rights-based approach and theme-based approach to social change and project development and implementation.

The visit gave us an opportunity to understand how organisations work at grassroot levels and how they address issues of the community. The interaction with the staff members helped us in strengthening our classroom learning and their theoretical and practical expertise helped us bridge the gap between theory and practical.

The key learnings are as follows:

1. Understanding the role of development organisations:

One of the most important learning from the visit was understanding the role of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in community development and promoting and protecting the rights and health of the community. CECOEDECON acts as a facilitator between communities, government agencies, and other stakeholders to ensure that vulnerable populations receive access to resources and opportunities.

The organization follows a people-centered approach, where community members actively participate in identifying their needs and developing solutions. It helps in understanding the actual needs of the community ensuring the relevance of the projects. It also helps in creating a sense of ownership among the beneficiaries thereby strengthening the implementation and sustainability of the projects.

The visit demonstrated that effective development work requires collaboration, trust-building, and continuous engagement with communities.

2. Community Participation and Empowerment:

A major learning was the realisation of the importance of community participation for the success of any project. CECOEDECON emphasizes involving local people in planning, decision-making, implementation, and monitoring of projects.

Community participation offers various advantages; better understanding of local needs and priorities, increased transparency and accountability, helps in building rapport and establishing trust, greater acceptance of initiative and long-term sustainability of projects.

The visit highlighted how empowerment is achieved not merely by providing resources but by building the capacity of individuals to make informed decisions. Training campaigns make the beneficiaries active agents of change. This approach reinforced the idea that sustainable development can only be achieved when people are empowered to participate in improving their own lives.

3. Women Empowerment and Gender Equality:

CECOEDECON recognizes that women play a critical role in family welfare, community development, and economic growth. The organization promotes gender equality by women's self-help groups, skill development among women, leave no one behind approach, access to education and income generating opportunities.

Through these initiatives, women are encouraged to become financially independent and participate actively in social and economic decision-making processes. The visit strengthened the understanding that gender equality is an essential component of sustainable development and social justice.

4. Capacity Building and Skill Development:

The visit helped us in understanding the importance of capacity building and skill development. CECOEDECON invests heavily in training and skill development strengthening the abilities of individuals, community leaders, and local institutions.

Capacity building programmes focus on leadership development, technical and vocational skills, community mobilization, financial management, etc.

These interventions help communities develop the confidence and competence needed to manage their own development initiatives. The visit emphasized that capacity building creates lasting impact because it equips people with skills that remain useful

even after project completion, ensuring sustainability of the project. It helps to create sustainable change rather than short-term improvements.

5. Importance of Networking and Partnerships:

The visit highlighted the importance of partnerships in achieving development goals. CECOEDECON collaborates with government departments, funding agencies, academic institutions, civil society organizations, and local communities. Such partnerships provide technical expertise, financial support, policy advocacy opportunities, wider outreach and better resource utilisation. The organization's collaborative approach demonstrated that complex social issues cannot be solved by a single institution. Multi-stakeholder engagement is essential for achieving meaningful and lasting outcomes.

This insight enhanced understanding of how teamwork, coordination, and communication contribute to the success of development projects.

6. Management and Organizational Learning:

As a management student, one of the most valuable aspects of the visit was observing the organizational structure and management practices of CECOEDECON. The organization follows systematic planning, monitoring, reporting, and evaluation mechanisms to ensure accountability and effectiveness. It helped us understand that strategic planning is essential for achieving organizational goals, monitoring and evaluation improve project performance, effective communication strengthens stakeholder relationships, proper resource management ensures efficiency and documentation and reporting support transparency and learning.

These practices demonstrated how management principles can be applied effectively within the social development sector.

Challenges Identified

Some of the challenges that we identified are as follows:

1. Limited Financial Resources:

Many development projects depend on grants and external funding. Ensuring continuous financial support for long-term community programs can be challenging.

2. Community Awareness and Participation:

Convincing community members to actively participate in development initiatives can be difficult due to lack of awareness, traditional beliefs, or resistance to change.

3. Rural and Remote Accessibility:

Reaching remote villages and underserved populations requires significant time, effort, and resources, which can slow project implementation.

4. Coordination Among Stakeholders:

Effective collaboration between government agencies, NGOs, local institutions, and community members can sometimes be difficult due to differing priorities and administrative procedures.

5. Sustainability of Programs

Ensuring that communities continue development initiatives independently after project support ends remains a major challenge.

6. Livelihood and Employment Constraints:

Many rural households have limited income opportunities, making economic upliftment and sustainable livelihood generation a continuous challenge.

7. Low Literacy Levels:

Limited education and literacy among community members can create challenges in conducting training programs, spreading awareness, and implementing development projects.

8. Gender Inequality:

Despite various empowerment programs, women in some communities still face social and cultural barriers that limit their participation in decision-making and economic activities.

9. Environmental and Climate Issues:

Communities often face water scarcity, droughts, and other climate-related challenges that affect agriculture, livelihoods, and overall development.

10. Monitoring and Evaluation:

Tracking the impact of projects and measuring outcomes across different locations requires continuous monitoring and proper data collection mechanisms which can be challenging at times.

Conclusion

The visit to CECOEDECON was a highly informative and inspiring experience that deepened our understanding of community development and social transformation. It provided practical exposure to the functioning of a development organization and showcased the importance of community participation, women's empowerment, sustainable livelihoods, environmental conservation, capacity building, and strategic partnerships.

The experience highlighted that true development is not merely about providing aid but about empowering people, strengthening institutions, and creating opportunities for self-reliance. It also demonstrated how effective management practices contribute to successful development outcomes.

Overall, the visit enhanced our knowledge of grassroots development processes and reinforced the importance of inclusive, sustainable, and participatory approaches in achieving long-term social and economic progress. The lessons learned from CECOEDECON will be valuable in our future academic pursuits and professional career in management and community development.

Annexure

