

FES

FOUNDATION FOR ECOLOGICAL SECURITY



SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM IIHMR, JAIPUR

Submitted By: Sarthak Sharma

CONSERVATION OF LANDSCAPE FOR CLIMATE-RESILIENT ECOSYSTEMS

BRIEF HISTORY

The Foundation for Ecological Security (FES) is an Indian non-profit organization that aims to restore and conserve land, forest, and water resources. By partnering with rural communities, FES promotes sustainable livelihoods and strengthens local governance, integrating traditional and modern knowledge for systemic sustainability.

MISSION AND VISION

The mission of the Foundation for Ecological Security (FES) is to restore ecological balance and improve the management of land, water, and forest resources in rural India. Their vision is to achieve sustainable and equitable development through community-led governance of shared resources, ensuring long-term ecological security and enhanced livelihoods.

SWOT ANALYSIS

Strengths:

- Community-centric approach empowers local populations.
- Expertise in ecological restoration and sustainable practices.
- Strong collaborations with government, NGOs, and local institutions.

Weaknesses:

- Financial and resource constraints limit project scope.
- Logistical challenges in remote and fragile areas.



SWOT ANALYSIS

Opportunities:

- Potential to scale successful community-based models.
- Leveraging technology for improved data collection and monitoring.

Threats:

- Climate change impacts disrupting restoration efforts.
- Policy and regulatory changes affecting project operations.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

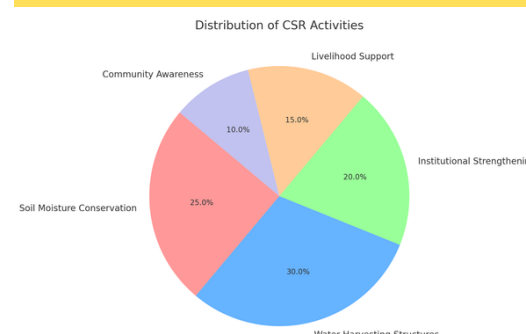
Corporate Hierarchy

The Foundation for Ecological Security (FES) is governed by a Board of Trustees, which provides strategic direction and oversight. The Executive Director manages the overall operations and implements the organization's strategies. Supporting the Executive Director is a Senior Management Team, comprising heads of various departments, including programs, finance, and operations.

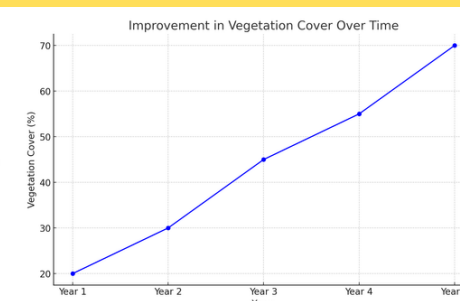
CSR Division

The CSR Division at FES is led by a CSR Head, responsible for spearheading corporate social responsibility initiatives. Program Managers oversee specific projects and partnerships, while Field Coordinators implement CSR activities at the grassroots level, ensuring effective community engagement and impact assessment.

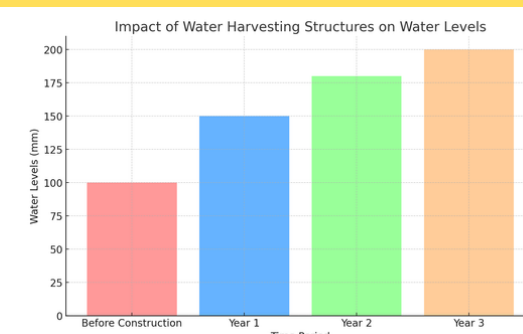
FINDINGS OF THE STUDY



Here is the pie chart showing the percentage allocation of different CSR activities. The chart visualizes how the CSR activities are distributed, with each segment representing a specific activity and its corresponding percentage.



Here is the line graph showing the improvement in vegetation cover over a five-year period due to soil moisture conservation measures. The graph tracks the increase in vegetation cover, with each point representing the vegetation percentage for a given year.



Here is the bar graph showing the impact of water harvesting structures on water levels. The graph compares the water levels before construction and over three years after the construction of the structures, illustrating the increase in water levels over time.

LEARNINGS

During the internship, I gained a deep understanding of CSR operations and stakeholder engagement. The practical exposure to data collection and analysis enhanced my skills in research methodologies and data analytics. Additionally, engaging with NGO partners provided valuable insights into ground-level challenges and the implementation of sustainable development projects.

CHALLENGES FACED

One of the primary challenges was adapting to the extreme weather conditions in Rajasthan, which affected field accessibility and respondent availability. The harsh summer climate and intense heat waves restricted movement and interactions with community members. Additionally, the seasonal agricultural activities limited my understanding of the villagers' year-round needs and challenges, leading to potential data gaps.

SUGGESTIONS

Improve Communication: Establish clearer communication channels with NGO partners to ensure consistent and reliable data collection.

Expand Training: Implement regular training programs for field staff to enhance their skills in nutrition and childcare.

Increase Field Visits: Allocate more resources for extensive field visits to better understand ground-level challenges.

Use Digital Tools: Adopt digital tools for streamlined data collection and real-time analysis.

GLIMPSES



USEFULNESS OF INTERNSHIP

Real-world Application: It allowed the application of theoretical knowledge to practical, real-world problems, particularly in the context of ecological and community development.

Career Insight: The experience provided valuable insights into the workings of NGOs and CSR initiatives, enhancing understanding of the sector.

Professional Growth: The internship fostered the development of key professional skills such as teamwork, communication, problem-solving, and adaptability in challenging environments.

Organization Mentor: Somya Patel, Shantanu Roy
University Mentor: Dr Goutam Sadhu