



SAARTHI • सारथी

करियर मार्गदर्शन पोर्टल • Career Guidance Portal

"सही मार्गदर्शन, उज्ज्वल भविष्य।"

करियर शीट • CAREER SHEET

ग्रामीण विकास विशेषज्ञ

Rural development specialists design and run projects on livelihoods, water, education, health and self-help groups in villages. They work with panchayati raj institutions, NGOs, cooperatives and corporate social projects.



Scan for everything on this career

Salary, exams, colleges, the routes in and the steps after — all on the portal.

career.gsssjethantri.in/#/career/socst-4583

राजकीय उच्च माध्यमिक विद्यालय, जेठन्तरी

Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Jethantri • ब्लॉक समदड़ी • बालोतरा (Block Samdari • Balotra)

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सुशील कुमार शर्मा

प्रधानाचार्य, रा.उ.मा.वि. जेठन्तरी • मास्टर ट्रेनर
Principal, GSSS Jethantri • Master Trainer



श्री चेनाराम चौधरी

प्रधानाचार्य, डाइट बाड़मेर
Principal, DIET Barmer



श्रीमती संघमित्रा

वरिष्ठ व्याख्याता, डाइट बाड़मेर (सहयोग)
Sr. Lecturer, DIET Barmer (Support)



भरत चौधरी

अभिकल्पना व विकास • व्याख्याता (इतिहास)
Designed & developed • Lecturer (History)

विशेष धन्यवाद • SPECIAL THANKS



सुरेन्द्र सिंह राठौड़

व्याख्याता (इतिहास) • रा.उ.मा.वि. कानाना



सुरेश कुमार सैन

व्याख्याता (भूगोल) • रा.उ.मा.वि. रामसीन मूंगड़ा



वनिता कुमारी

व्याख्याता (इतिहास) • रा.उ.मा.वि. रामसीन मूंगड़ा



कमलेश चौधरी

व्याख्याता (राजनीति विज्ञान) • रा.उ.मा.वि. टापरा

करियर मार्गदर्शन कार्यशाला, डाइट बाड़मेर (14-17 जुलाई 2026) में विकसित व लोकार्पित
Developed & unveiled at the Career Guidance Workshop, DIET Barmer (14-17 July 2026)

यह एक स्वतंत्र परियोजना है, जो सरकार की आधिकारिक करियर-मार्गदर्शन सामग्री पर आधारित है। • An independent project based on the Government's official career-guidance content.

1 About this career

Rural development specialists design and run projects on livelihoods, water, education, health and self-help groups in villages. They work with panchayati raj institutions, NGOs, cooperatives and corporate social projects.

2 At a glance

Minimum qualification	Class 12 (any stream) + degree in rural development/management or a PG diploma/MBA
Work mode	Field plus office; extensive travel in villages
Demand	High - in government missions, NGOs and CSR projects
Top earning	₹2 lakh+/month at director level

3 What you need

INTERESTS

- Interest in villages, society and serving people
- Comfortable talking with everyone
- Like leading and organising things

ABILITIES

- Easy communication and people engagement
- Ability to work in a team
- Leadership and organisational ability

KEY SKILLS

- Project planning and management
- Community mobilisation and building self-help groups
- Knowledge of government schemes (MGNREGA, NRLM etc.)
- Budgeting, reporting and monitoring-evaluation

- Effective communication in the local language
- Basics of data collection and surveys

4 How to get there

- 1 Complete Class 12 in any stream.
- 2 Do a bachelor's in rural studies/rural development/social work, or any degree.
- 3 Pursue an MBA/PG diploma in rural management - IRMA Anand is the leading institute.
- 4 Take CAT/XAT/IRMASAT-type exams for management institutes.
- 5 Do a field internship with an NGO or rural project.
- 6 Apply for roles in RAJEEVIKA, NRLM, NABARD or CSR projects.

MAIN EXAMS

- CAT/XAT/CMAT for admission to management institutes
- IRMASAT for the Institute of Rural Management Anand
- CUET UG/PG for university courses

5 Where to study

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTES

- Mohanlal Sukhadia University — Udaipur, Rajasthan
- National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) — Hyderabad, Telangana
- Centre for Studies in Rural Management, Gujarat Vidyapith — Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University — Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- IIT Bombay (CTARA) — Mumbai, Maharashtra

PRIVATE INSTITUTES

- Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA) — Anand, Gujarat
- Institute of Rural Management — Jaipur, Rajasthan
- Xavier Institute of Social Service — Ranchi, Jharkhand
- KIIT School of Rural Management — Bhubaneswar, Odisha

ONLINE

- IGNOU (M.A. Rural Development, distance) — Distance education

FEES

Course fees roughly ₹45,000 to ₹3,00,000; much lower at government universities and IGNOU. Varies by institute.

SCHOLARSHIPS

- National Scholarship Portal (<https://scholarships.gov.in>)
- Vidya Lakshmi Education Loan Portal (<https://www.vidyalakshmi.co.in>)

6 What the work is like

WHERE YOU WORK

Panchayati raj institutions, rural cooperatives, NGOs, agribusinesses and donor-funded development projects.

WORK CULTURE

Office work with extensive fieldwork and village travel; you can also start your own NGO or startup. Opportunities exist for persons with disabilities.

WHO HIRES

- Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Rajasthan
- NGOs - PRADAN, SEWA, Barefoot College
- CSR foundations - Tata Trusts, Reliance Foundation
- RAJEEVIKA and the National Rural Livelihoods Mission
- NABARD and rural banks
- Cooperatives and dairies such as Amul

DEMAND (2026)

Demand for trained rural development professionals is high in 2026, driven by livelihoods missions, Jal Jeevan Mission and growing CSR budgets.

7 Career growth

- 1 Assistant manager/Field coordinator
- 2 Project manager
- 3 Programme head
- 4 Director, rural development

EARNINGS

Starting	₹25,000-40,000
Mid level	₹50,000-90,000
Senior level	₹1,00,000-2,00,000

Pay depends on the organisation - modest in NGOs, but much higher via placements from institutes like IRMA.

8 The good parts · The challenges

The good parts

- Meaningful work that changes village lives
- Growing opportunities in government missions and CSR
- Early chances at leadership and entrepreneurship

The challenges

- Constant travel and fieldwork in remote areas
- Modest starting pay in the NGO sector
- Project-based roles can bring uncertainty

9 Real-life journeys

Joe Madiath

Founder of Gram Vikas - pioneer of rural water and sanitation

Kerala-born Joe Madiath cycled across India to understand poverty and founded Gram Vikas in Odisha in 1979, taking water and sanitation to more than 83,000 rural households.

Wikipedia · https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joe_Madiath

Reema Nanavaty

Director, SEWA - rural women's livelihoods across 18 states

Reema Nanavaty left the civil services to join SEWA, linking lakhs of rural women to water, farming and livelihood projects; she received the Padma Shri in 2013.

Wikipedia · https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reema_Nanavaty

10 If this route does not work out

One exam or one attempt does not close the door. The same subjects also open these routes — entry is usually easier, and you can return to this field later.

- Hostel Superintendent (Minority Affairs Department, Rajasthan)
- Supervisor (Woman) — Integrated Child Development Services, Rajasthan
- Hostel Superintendent Grade-II (Social Justice and Empowerment Department, Rajasthan)

11 Sources & further reading

1. Rajasthan Career Guidance portal - official career page — <https://cg.rajasthan.gov.in/careerguidance/hi/career/rural-development-specialist-manager-%e0%a4%97%e0%a5%8d%e0%a4%b0%e0%a4%be%e0%a4%ae%e0%a5%80%e0%a4%a3-%e0%a4%b5%e0%a4%bf%e0%a4%95%e0%a4%be%e0%a4%b8-%e0%a4%aa%e0%a5%8d%e0%a4%b0%e0%a4%ac%e0%a4%82/>
2. National Career Service portal — <https://www.ncs.gov.in>
3. National Scholarship Portal — <https://scholarships.gov.in>
4. NIRF institute rankings — <https://www.nirfindia.org>
5. Vidya Lakshmi education loan portal — <https://www.vidyalakshmi.co.in>



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