



VILLAGE ADHYAN

Toolkits for Community Engagement and Rural Transformation

Toolkit Series - 7

Village Adhyan : Creating Smart Villages for Vikshit Bharat 2047

Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA)

SEG-Capacity Building, Strategy for Convergence
and Implementation of Various Govt. Schemes



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Preface

Village Adhyan Toolkits: Connect the Dots to Find the Flow

The **Village Adhyan Toolkits** are designed as **practical field guides** for learners engaging with villages. They are not meant to be read like an academic manual, but to be *used*—during field visits, community interactions, and reflection. From the outset, this series makes a deliberate choice: *perceived usability matters more than intellectual completeness*. The purpose is to support learning that actually happens on the ground.

Village Adhyan treats field learning as one journey supported by many pocket guides. No one carries an atlas into a village; they carry only the route needed for the day. In the same spirit, this Toolkit is arranged as **seven Learning Series**, each focusing on a distinct theme of village life, yet connected to the larger whole.

Each toolkit is modular, focused, and field-friendly, helping the learner clearly answer:

- *What shall I do with this toolkit?*
- *What should I observe?*
- *What should I ask?*
- *What should I reflect on?*

The likely insights at each stage are presented as **concise nuggets**, meant to be retained as **mental models**—simple ways of seeing connections, patterns, and flows in village realities.

Instead of a single bulky compendium, Village Adhyan is intentionally designed as a **Toolkit Series**. In a way, it works like a Netflix series rather than an 800-page textbook. Learning is broken into focused “episodes” that can be taken up one at a time, revisited when needed, or even skipped depending on context. This makes each toolkit psychologically approachable, clearly finishable, and easy to share, print, or update.

By presenting Village Adhyan as seven Learning Series—with a common structure and flow—the toolkits reduce cognitive load and invite use rather than hesitation. The pages that follow explain how each Learning Series supports this journey of exploration, helping learners gradually see villages not as isolated problems, but as interconnected systems.

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Village Adhyan Toolkit Series

Toolkit – 1: The Overall Framework

Learning through Exploration: This toolkit introduces the core approach of Village Adhyan. It focuses on how to ask exploratory questions—questions that are not meant to extract quick or isolated answers, but to trace pathways: from cause to consequence, from policy intent to field practice, and from individual experience to systemic patterns. Village Adhyan is about learning to connect, sequence, and relate—to see village realities as flows rather than isolated dots. This toolkit helps students de-learn fragmented thinking and cultivate inquiry that leads to deeper understanding.

Toolkit – 2: Rural Infrastructure

Foundations for Human Development: This toolkit focuses on understanding rural infrastructure systems such as health infrastructure, education infrastructure, Anganwadi centres, drinking water supply, sanitation, housing, roads, electricity, and digital connectivity. Students learn to examine not just physical availability, but functionality, access, quality, and maintenance, and how infrastructure shapes outcomes in health, education, livelihoods, and dignity.

Toolkit – 3: Rural Livelihoods, Skilling and Entrepreneurship

How Rural Households Earn a Living: This toolkit examines farm and non-farm livelihoods, skilling, entrepreneurship, and emerging livelihood opportunities. It emphasizes livelihood enhancement and diversification, seasonal vulnerability, income stability, and the link between livelihoods, skills, assets, local ecosystems and how empowerment emerges through productive engagement. Students are encouraged to see livelihoods as dynamic strategies, not static occupations. It also introduces relevant schemes of the Ministry of Rural Development, and Ministry of Small, Micro Enterprises.

Toolkit – 4: Entitlements and Social Assistance Support

Social Protection and Resilience: This toolkit focuses on entitlements and deprivation, including social assistance for the aged, persons with disabilities, widows, destitute households, and vulnerable groups. It also covers income support, insurance, and resilience-building measures, particularly for those engaged in informal work, rural arts, crafts, and traditional livelihoods. Students learn to distinguish between eligibility, access, delivery, and dignity in welfare systems.

Toolkit – 5: Last-Mile Service Delivery

From Coverage to Saturation: This toolkit examines the challenges of last-mile delivery and the pursuit of saturation of key development indicators—such as ensuring every child attends an Anganwadi, full immunization, freedom from malnutrition and anaemia, universal SHG inclusion for poor women, and smooth transitions from secondary education to higher secondary, technical education, or skilling pathways. The emphasis is on understanding why gaps persist despite schemes, and how coordination and follow-up matter.

Toolkit – 6: Creating Model Villages

Model Villages: This toolkit focuses on the idea of Model Villages, emphasizing that a Model Village is rooted in inspiration, not perfection. A Model Village does not mean a village that is perfect in every sphere of development. At its core, a Model Village demonstrates how focused effort, collective action, and smart use of available resources can bring visible and measurable transformation. It puts across that development does not have to begin everywhere at once. It can begin in one critical area and then naturally spread to related areas, improving overall quality of life. Model village is about ‘inspirational ripple’.

Toolkit – 7: Creating Smart Villages for Vikshit Bharat 2047

Smart Villages: This toolkit focuses on the idea of Model Villages and Smart Villages, emphasizing the creation of a digitally empowered rural citizen—the “Techno Rural Person.” It explores how Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) can enable seamless Government-to-Citizen services, improve transparency, access opportunities, and support inclusive development. This toolkit connects village-level transformation with the larger vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

Each **Village Adhyan Toolkit** is designed to be used independently while also fitting into a coherent whole. Together, they encourage students to move from observation to exploration, from fragments to flows, and from understanding problems to imagining pathways for transformation. Elements such as technology, gender, inclusivity etc. can go cutting across all these categories.

Village Adhyan Toolkit Series – 7

Creating Smart Villages for Vikshit Bharat 2047

1. What is a Smart Village?

A Smart Village is a village that has **seamless digital connectivity**, and **uses that connectivity to access technology-enabled services**, markets, knowledge, and governance systems—**at the doorstep of every rural person**.

In simple terms:

A Smart Village is a digitally connected village that can keep pace with modern services, technologies, and opportunities—just like cities—while retaining its rural strengths.

Digital connectivity acts as the **bridge** that brings:

- government services,
 - markets,
 - finance,
 - education,
 - healthcare,
 - and employment opportunities
- directly into villages**, reducing distance, delay, and dependency.

2. Why Smart Villages Matter for Vikshit Bharat 2047

India's journey to **Vikshit Bharat @ 2047** requires that **every village participates**, not just cities.

Digital technologies:

- collapse distance,
- reduce transaction costs,
- improve service delivery,
- and democratise access to opportunity.

With platforms such as **BharatNet**, India has already laid the **digital foundation**.

What remains is **using this connectivity meaningfully** at the village level.

Smart Villages are not the destination; they are the enablers of inclusive growth.

3. The Core Logic of a Smart Village (Mental Model)

Connectivity → Capability → Services → Livelihoods → Dignity

1. **Connectivity** enables access
2. **Capability** (digital literacy) enables usage
3. **Services** become reachable
4. **Livelihoods** diversify and grow
5. **Dignity & inclusion** improve

This cascading effect is what makes a village truly *smart*.

4. Core Components of a Smart Village

Component 1: Digital Infrastructure (Foundation Layer)

- ✓ Optical fibre / broadband connectivity at GP level
- ✓ Reliable power supply
- ✓ Wi-Fi access points / public internet spaces
- ✓ Functional digital devices (computers, printers, scanners)

Connectivity is Step-1. Smartness begins only after this.

Component 2: Digital Access Points (Service Gateways)

- ✓ Functional **Common Service Centre (CSC)**
- ✓ Bank Mitra / CSC operators
- ✓ Help desk for online applications
- ✓ Printing, scanning, e-KYC support

CSCs become the **front-end of the government and market** in villages.

Component 3: Digital Literacy & Confidence

- ✓ Basic smartphone usage
- ✓ Internet navigation
- ✓ Online form filling
- ✓ Cyber safety awareness
- ✓ PMGDISHA or equivalent programmes

A digitally connected but digitally illiterate village is not a Smart Village.

Component 4: Digital Financial Inclusion

- ✓ Jan Dhan accounts
- ✓ Aadhaar seeding
- ✓ Mobile-based payments (UPI)
- ✓ Digital pensions, DBT access
- ✓ Insurance and pension enrolment
- ✓ Credit access through digital platforms

Digital finance reduces **leakage, delay, and dependency**.

Component 5: Digital Service Delivery (G2C)

Villages can access **at doorstep**:

- Aadhaar & PAN services
- Certificates (birth, death, caste, income)
- PM-Kisan, pensions, Ayushman Bharat
- MGNREGS job cards & wage tracking
- Utility payments
- Driving licence, vehicle services

Smart Villages experience faster, transparent governance.

Component 6: Smart Agriculture & Livelihoods

- ✓ Digital soil health information
- ✓ Weather and market price alerts
- ✓ Online agri-inputs
- ✓ e-NAM / digital market access
- ✓ Agri-tech platforms
- ✓ IoT-based water and crop monitoring

Digital tools convert farmers from **price takers to informed decision-makers**.

Component 7: Smart Health & Education

Health

- ✓ Telemedicine
- ✓ Digital health records
- ✓ Remote diagnostics
- ✓ Health reminders & follow-ups

Education

- ✓ Online learning platforms
- ✓ Digital classrooms
- ✓ Skill courses
- ✓ Career guidance
- ✓ E-libraries

Smart Villages bring services to people instead of people travelling to services.

Component 8: Emerging Digital Opportunities

- ✓ AI & IoT in agriculture
- ✓ FinTech for micro-credit
- ✓ Edu-tech for rural youth
- ✓ Care-tech for elderly and childcare
- ✓ Remote work opportunities
- ✓ Rural digital entrepreneurship

Smart Villages create **new jobs**, especially for **youth and women**.

5. Step-by-Step: How to Set Up a Smart Village**(Village Adhyan Action Path)****Step 1: Assess Digital Readiness**

- Is broadband live?
- Are CSCs functional?
- Is power reliable?

Step 2: Strengthen Digital Infrastructure

- Ensure last-mile connectivity
- Create public digital spaces
- Fix power and hardware gaps

Step 3: Build Digital Literacy

- Train SHGs, youth, farmers, elderly
- Focus on confidence, not just skills

Step 4: Activate CSCs as Service Hubs

- Expand services
- Improve reliability
- Promote awareness

Step 5: Deepen Digital Financial Inclusion

- Enable payments, pensions, credit
- Promote trust and usage

Step 6: Introduce Sector-Specific Digital Services

- Agriculture
- Health
- Education
- Welfare schemes

Step 7: Promote Digital Livelihoods

- Youth entrepreneurship
- Platform-based work
- Local e-commerce

Step 8: Monitor Usage, Not Just Infrastructure

- Are people actually using services?
- Who is left out?
- What barriers remain?

6. Village Adhyan Checklist – Smart Village Readiness

- ✓ Broadband connectivity functional
- ✓ CSC active and trusted
- ✓ Digital literacy programmes running
- ✓ Digital payments widely used
- ✓ Online G2C services accessed locally
- ✓ Farmers using digital advisories
- ✓ Tele-health or e-learning in use
- ✓ Youth engaged in digital livelihoods

7. Key Village Adhyan Insight

Smart Villages are not created by cables alone. They are created when connectivity turns into capability, capability into services, and services into better lives.

Enabling digital connectivity and digital services is therefore one of the most powerful and realistic interventions Village Adhyan can take up on the path to Vikshit Bharat 2047.

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Toolkit – 4: Entitlements and Social Assistance Support

Toolkit – 5: Last-Mile Service Delivery

Toolkit – 6: Creating Model Villages

Toolkit – 7: Creating Smart Villages for Vikshit Bharat 2047

