



UNNATI
Organisation for Development Education

annual report
2003-04

Two years ago, UNNATI made a strategic shift from being a support institution for capacity building to an issue-based strategic educational organisation. This transition has been free of any major hurdles. As part of this shift, we continued to keep our identity as a development educational institution, but designed our intervention to become more relevant to the changes required at the grassroots, particularly for vulnerability reduction. Currently, we see two major reasons that perpetuate poverty –

- (i) Discrimination and social exclusion which are rooted in the socio-economic structure, and
- (ii) Governance which is not accountable and fails to ensure basic provisions for the weaker sections of society.

Hence, we have decided to work on invoking the principles of social justice in the civil society, strengthen governance to make it accountable and empower the poor and the excluded, whereby, the poor will no longer be mere beneficiaries but, as active citizens, they will have the right to define their relationship with the State and other stakeholders.

With this analytical framework we have articulated two thematic areas of intervention:

- (i) Social Inclusion and Empowerment
- (ii) Civic Leadership and Governance



To maintain our relevance at the grass roots, we have developed district and sub-district-level focus. It is hoped that the direct field-level engagements will provide us with the learning of and insights into the local issues. The field learning can be distilled and synthesised to take up policy advocacy at the meso and macro levels in partnership with other agencies. To make an impact, the strategy calls for working with not only the vulnerable but also other stakeholders. This year we continued with our work in Gujarat and the western region of Rajasthan.

In the last two years, we have been able to effectively engage ourselves with some of the critical issues involving the denial of rights and decentralised governance. This is a new shift with a strategic choice and at the end of the year we feel that this has been a meaningful choice. We have received tremendous support from our partners, network members, resource agencies, government departments, professional associations and the media. Our sincere thanks to all those who have been associated with us, guided us, supported us and asked us difficult questions.



SOCIAL INCLUSION AND EMPOWERMENT

Deprivation due to social exclusion and discrimination is one of the main causes of poverty. All development programmes, be it on food security, drinking water, sanitation or health care, do not reach a large section of people who remain marginalised due to social isolation, exploitation and stigmatisation. When programmes fail to reach the chronic poverty groups, special institutional care in the form of custodial services is created. Such kinds of services are perhaps the last option – not the mainstream strategy.

UNNATI as a strategic development educational institution tries to invoke the principles of social justice and inclusion among the developmental actors in the civil society, government and the corporate. Our educational interventions are developed in direct association and solidarity with the socially excluded. For us the socially excluded are the dalits, tribals, women (particularly single women), orphans, children without care and protection, child labourers, the homeless, persons with disability and HIV-AIDS. Currently, we are directly involved on the issues of dalits, women and persons with disability. The main purpose of our interventions is to make knowledge available on social exclusion through mobilisation, research and advocacy and to invoke civil society action in reshaping developmental strategies. In this process we aim to empower the poor and the excluded to assume leadership in challenging the discrimination and to advocate policy changes.

Dalit Adhikar Abhiyan (Dalit Rights Campaign)

This is the fifth year of the dalit campaign in Rajasthan. During the first two years, the thrust of the campaign was on internal social reform within the dalit community. However, after initial awareness programmes organised through the Dalit Resource Centres (DRCs) in 7 blocks of Barmer and Jodhpur districts, social mobilisation and organising has been taken up around the issues of discrimination in public places, atrocities by dominant forces and encroachment on land.

Dalit Organising

The Dalit Rights Campaign is a collaborative initiative of 9 grass root NGOs, including UNNATI. Each DRC covers about 20 to 50 villages through intensive mobilisation. They regularly conduct village and block-level meetings covering about 200 villages.

A dalit sammelan was organised during August 22-23, 2003. This was the third dalit sammelan organised in the last 5 years. The objective of the sammelan was to develop a strategy with

the dalit community leaders in the centre, rather than NGOs as the vanguard of the campaign. Eminent social activists and dalit leaders participated in this sammelan.



A two-day workshop (November 7–8, 2003) was organised for the apex committee members (regional committee) of the Dalit Rights Campaign. This workshop was primarily aimed to institutionalise community leadership in the campaign.



The third dalit sammelan

Another workshop was organised during February 20-21, 2004 for developing broader linkages of the campaign. Besides the DRC members, NGOs from Jodhpur and Barmer participated in this event.

To develop an advocacy strategy on land alienation and ownership, a workshop was organised during March 25-27, 2004 at Jodhpur. The primary objective of the workshop was to orient the participants on legal issues related to land transfer and ownership and to develop a strategy to take up the issue of land encroachment.

In all the 7 blocks, block-level workshops were organised with women leaders to promote their leadership in the campaign, in which 272 women leaders participated.

Fighting Discrimination

In the last 4 years, the DRCs have raised 268 cases of discrimination in public places like schools, hospitals, panchayats and water points; 68 cases of atrocities have been taken up and legal action has also been initiated. In the last two years, land encroachment of 2000 bighas has been registered and legal and social action initiated. In this process, 875 bighas have been released benefiting 62 households. In the current year, 17 cases of atrocities against women have also been taken up.

Through the DRCs more than 250 households were provided information on various government programmes and a process was facilitated so that they may avail themselves of the benefits of old age pension and income generation support.

During January–June 2003, the western region of Rajasthan was under the grip of an unprecedented drought. The government initiated special drought relief schemes for food security. To make the schemes accessible to vulnerable families, the DRCs monitored the food security programmes and enabled continued linkage of more than 3500 families in 7 blocks. During May–August 2003 in Shergardh block of Jodhpur district 100 vulnerable families were provided food packets as a part of drought relief.

A water security programme was initiated in Baitu and Sindhri blocks of Barmer district to ensure rain water harvesting structures for all families in six villages. Besides this, community-level water harvesting structures (tanka and diggy) were constructed. In every village a committee has been formed to maintain the water harvesting structures. This initiative benefits 200 families.

Some of the public protest actions undertaken during the period were as follows:

In January–February 2004, a 21 days long dharna was staged in front of the District Collector's office for releasing 460 bighas of land owned by the dalits.

In October 2003, a demonstration was held before the police and in the village against a case of sexual harassment in Siyanda village in Shergardh block of Jodhpur district. This was part of a strategy to initiate social action by the community against the accused.

Community-Based Monitoring

To strengthen the campaign and the local leadership, a community-based monitoring system was initiated. Every month the block-level committee members reviewed the activities. This acts as a decentralised forum to draw up a strategy for addressing the various local issues. All DRC staff along with representatives from UNNATI review the activities undertaken during the



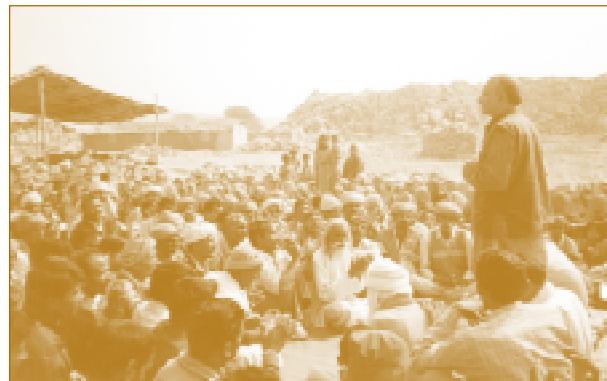
A dalit rally seeking justice

month in a village setting in one of the targeted blocks. The team conducts night meetings with the villagers in which they are encouraged to assess the effectiveness of the programme. In other words, every month the programme is being directly assessed by the people.

Campaign on Issue of Citizenship

In western Rajasthan, the traditional performing art community is called 'kalbelias'. Traditionally, this community moved from one village to another under a structured 'jajmani system'. Performing the art is the only source of their livelihood. However, in recent years this system has died

down and the kalbelias have returned to their original settlement leading a settled life. Many of them do not have land title and ration cards and many are denied their legitimate Scheduled Caste status. In order to understand the problems of the kalbelias a study had been undertaken covering 50 villages of Jodhpur district. The report was submitted to the District Collector to ensure citizenship rights for this community.



Meeting with Pak oustees

In western Rajasthan, about one lakh population, who had crossed the Pakistan border (refugees) during 1965 and 1971 Wars and afterwards, were assured Indian citizenship rights by the Government of India (GOI). However, a large number of these refugees reside in the border districts of Barmer, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur and Bikaner without citizenship rights. To effectively hold dialogue with the government, UNNATI is supporting a community-based organisation of the Pak oustees called Pak Vishapit Sangh. Efforts have been made to build the leadership of this group so that they can articulate their problems and directly initiate dialogue with the government. To facilitate this process two development fellows have been supported to initiate dialogue between the Pak oustees and the government.

Civil Society Engagement on Mainstreaming Disability

Community-Level Initiative

To ascertain the extent of disability and to spread awareness in the community on this issue, a Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) exercise was undertaken in 13 rural and urban clusters in 4 districts of Gujarat. The PRA was conducted in association with local NGOs. It may be noted

here that the Government of India had included a question in the Census of India, 2001 to enumerate the prevalence of disability in the country in a comprehensive way. This is a milestone as for the first time after independence an attempt was made to officially record the extent of disability in the country. The PRA reports have been discussed and shared in various programmes. Many partner NGOs have started including persons with disabilities in their ongoing activities. These examples demonstrate how disability issues could be incorporated in mainstream development by invoking the ethos of social inclusion among the community and social development organisations.

As a part of community education, public educational campaigns were supported on Disability Day (December 3). Three district-level campaigns were organised by partner NGOs.

A multimedia presentation on barrier-free environment was developed and relayed at an Annual Convention of United Way of Baroda (UWB), a Vadodara-based network of organisations. This presentation was viewed by more than 2000 people from government, NGOs and community.

To highlight the issues of disability and social inclusion, meetings were organised with the print, radio and electronic media at Ahmedabad, Bhuj and Himmatnagar. Following these, the media has taken interest in the issue and has increased coverage.

Multi Stakeholder Initiative to Promote Barrier-Free Environment

The issue of creation of a barrier-free environment for effective participation of persons with temporary and permanent disabilities in civic activities is a neglected area. In March 2003, in collaboration with the Blind People's Association (BPA) and Handicap International (HI), a public meeting was organised to create awareness on accessibility or barrier-free environment. This initiative raised interest on the issue among engineers, architects, planners and officials of the municipal corporations. During the year, a series of workshops on barrier-free environment were organised in collaboration with Samarthya, a New Delhi-based resource group on accessibility. The participants included engineers, architects, town planners, academia, NGOs and representatives from the service and entertainment industry. These workshops led to the formation of a voluntary group called Access Resource Group. During the year the group members have been volunteering to conduct access audits and suggesting recommendations to create barrier-free buildings and spaces. The group has also taken the responsibility of developing a technical manual of guidelines on accessibility in building constructions. For capacity building of the resource group a technical training was also organised during March 19-21, 2004 in

collaboration with Samarthya.

Specific access audits have been carried out for many public places, i.e. Eklavya School, ICICI Bank, Planet Health and Law Garden in Ahmedabad; and Kamati Baugh and Narmada Bhavan in Vadodara.

Educational Materials

- A pamphlet highlighting the provisions of the Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) Act, 1995 was prepared and printed for wider dissemination.
- A brochure and photo exhibition was developed on various features of accessibility.
- A multimedia presentation was prepared on barrier-free environment.
- A video film developed by Action on Disability and Development (ADD India), Bangalore, on inclusion of PWDs was dubbed in Gujarati.
- A resource directory on availability of services and programmes on disability (with a focus on public health) in Ahmedabad and Kutch has been printed.
- Disability as an issue in governance was highlighted during the World Disability Week in December 2003 through a radio programme on governance issues viz. 'Gamda no Dhabkar' in Gujarati.
- Two papers on 'Barrier-Free Environment' and 'PRA as a Tool to Promote Social Inclusion' were presented at a regional symposium on positive action for social inclusion of PWDs organised by the National Forum of Organisations working with the disabled in Bangladesh.



Access audit of a medical store

Propagating a barrier free environment

BY ARENA RACHERIAH
The Asian Age
Australasia, 11 JULY 2004 16

A newspaper clipping from 'The Asian Age' dated July 11, 2004. The headline is 'Propagating a barrier free environment'. The article discusses the work of Anil Patel and Sudhir Sachdev in creating a barrier-free environment. It includes a photo of the two men in wheelchairs at a desk. The text continues to describe their work and the challenges they face.

Media report on disability issues

Building Partnership

Critical partnerships were developed with institutions working for rehabilitation of disabled persons like the BPA, UWB and National Association for the Blind. Activities carried out in collaboration with them included workshops, trainings, public events, publication of educational materials and advocacy on disability issues. There has been an increasing recognition of the role of civil society in mainstreaming disability amongst partners and this has led to an exchange and sharing of information on the subject at forums that were so far mainly addressing service-related issues for persons with disabilities.

Vulnerability Reduction in the Earthquake-Affected Areas of Kutch, Gujarat

A community-based approach to rehabilitation was adopted to reach out to vulnerable groups in the earthquake-affected areas. We have been working in 20 villages and in Bhachau town in Kutch district of Gujarat. Through community consultations and participatory processes, the most vulnerable groups were identified, particularly the vadis, dalits, kolis, muslims and people without entitlement to land and assets. The rehabilitation process has been undertaken in collaboration with the government, local administration, NGOs and other resource agencies.

Livelihood Promotion

In the earthquake-affected area of Bhachau taluka in Kutch district, we have been working on livelihood restoration for the last three years with about 678 women, 40 weavers and 10 block printers. The objective is to strengthen the skills of the artisans so that they can be ensured fair wages, increase in their productive assets and tools, access to socially protected markets and their dependency on exploitative intermediaries is reduced.

All the producers have been mobilised to form Common Interest Groups (CIGs) or Self Help Groups (SHGs). For women embroidery workers 22 new products have been developed which are suitable for local and international markets. The weavers and the block printers were provided training on choice of colour and creation of new designs. Market links have been developed in Ahmedabad, Udaipur, Badmer and with national export houses.



Skill building for women embroiders

The artisan groups along with their products participated in five exhibitions with a sale of Rs. 3,12,925 during the year. For the women artisans, UNNATI has provided wages of Rs. 6,28,914 during the year and about 300 women artisans have been engaged on a regular basis.

The women artisans have been provided training on savings and credit, group formation and maintenance, access to social security programmes and leadership development. Exposure visits and celebration of Women's Day are ongoing educational processes to empower these groups.

Promotion of Safe Habitat

In the rehabilitation process, our main aim was not only to provide houses but also to create an environment so that people would be motivated to build seismically safe houses. To promote awareness and behavioural change on safe housing technology, a public educational programme was initiated. In the urban areas of Bhachau regular educational programmes have been taken up at the technology park. A 'Sajjata Rath' which is an exhibition on disaster preparedness on wheels has been constructed with awareness materials displayed on the sides. This vehicle moves from place to place conducting educational camps in the community. During the reporting period, 32 masons have been trained on seismically safe housing technology. A collection of essays on Agamcheti (disaster preparedness) has been compiled in a booklet form and is under print. Series of posters, leaflets, banners and other forms of popular communication material

have also been prepared and disseminated on the issue of safe housing technology. In two villages, a pilot action research study has been carried out on community-based disaster preparedness plan. The aim was to develop a methodology for community-based disaster preparedness plan based on the field experimentation. This experience has been shared in many forums with other stakeholders.



Roof water harvesting, Rabarivas, Bhachau

268 families have been provided partial material support for retrofitting or for completion of their houses. These households have received no or little support from the government as compensation. Out of the 268 families, 20 koli families of Ladheshvar built their new settlement. These families were completely left out from the compensation package provided by the government.

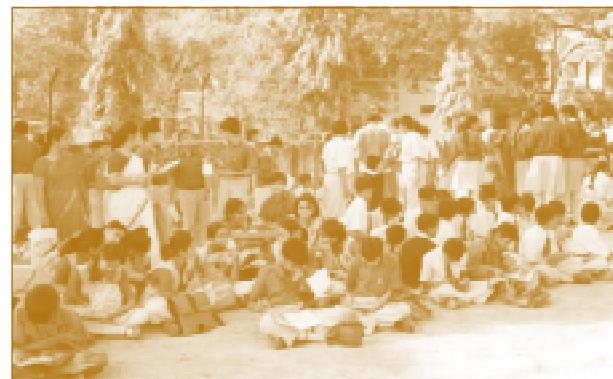
Till last year, we could reach out to 249 vulnerable families for constructing safe houses. This year we have reached out to an additional 106 families thus benefiting a total of 355 households. All the 106 new houses were also provided with roof rain water harvesting facilities.

Educational Process on Disaster Preparedness

In Ahmedabad a public awareness campaign was taken up in collaboration with the Ahmedabad Fire Brigade and Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) to orient the community on how to respond in an emergency situation. On the issue of fire safety we worked with 20 schools through fire safety demonstration and provided educational material. During the Diwali festival in 2003 we initiated a campaign on road and fire safety. A musical jingle on 'Safe and Happy Diwali' was organised and a slide on safety issues was screened in key movie theatres in 5 major cities. An animated message on local TV channels was also used to create this awareness. This is part of an initiative supported by CORDAID, Netherlands to modernise and enhance the disaster response capacity of the Ahmedabad Fire Brigade.

The educational material provided comprised:

- (1) Sticker with emergency number (101) in English and Gujarati
- (2) Cartoon book 'The Shield of Safety' in English and Gujarati
- (3) Poster on the do's and don'ts during a fire
- (4) A 55-second musical animated video on safety and
- (5) CD on emergency equipments available with the Fire Brigade and how these can be used.



Children at a fire safety demonstration

Capacity Building

Besides our field-level interventions and training programmes, we have been extending training support to a wider group of development programmes and agencies. For the use of grass root development workers, we publish a quarterly educational bulletin in the Hindi and Gujarati languages covering various issues.

Educational Material

During the year in the quarterly bulletin VICHAR articles on the themes of Social Security for the Poor, Citizen Participation in Electoral Process, Declining Sex Ratio, Participatory Poverty Assessment, Creation of Barrier-Free Environment and Community-Based Disaster Preparedness were published. Grass root practitioners use these articles during training and community mobilisation programmes.

Training Programmes

1. A training programme on Social Development Perspectives was organised during April 7-9, 2003 for NGOs of Gujarat and Rajasthan in which 37 representatives from 12 organisations participated.
2. A training programme was organised on PRA for the NGOs of Rajasthan and Gujarat during August 5-10, 2003.
3. A series of workers' educational camps were organised for relief workers in the drought-affected parts of western Rajasthan. More than 50 such camps were organised in partnership with local NGOs during May 2003.
4. A two-round Training of Trainers programme was organised on the SHG formation and development in partnership with Friend's of the Women's World Banking (FWWB) for the NGOs in western Rajasthan in which 33 representatives from 15 organisations participated.
5. A training programme was facilitated for DANIDA on vulnerability reduction during August 18-26, 2003. This programme was organised for the officials involved in the water and sanitation programme in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.
6. A training programme was facilitated on Participatory Training methods for the FWWB during February 24-27, 2004 at Ahmedabad.
7. A training programme was facilitated on Community-Based Disaster Preparedness for Concern Worldwide during April 28-29, 2003 and for the partners of the Save the Children Fund (SCF) in Gujarat during July 4-5, 2003.
8. Programme planning and review support was extended to the Gujarat Harmony Project of CARE India. This project aims to promote social reconciliation in partnership with 10 grass root organisations in Ahmedabad, Anand and Vadodara districts in Gujarat.



Training on PRA

CIVIC LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

A diverse and vibrant civil society is an important precondition for building democratic and accountable governance. Civil society is not a homogeneous entity and the dominant forces often control the governing institutions giving little space to the poor and the vulnerable. There is a national and global consensus that State institutions are too remote from the daily realities of the poor. Decentralised and democratic governance alone can respond to the needs and aspirations of the local communities. The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Act provided India the status of the largest representative democracy with the representation of dalits, tribals and women who were earlier excluded from the governing structures. We have been engaged in strengthening the decentralised governance process since the enactment of the constitutional amendment in 1992. In the upcoming towns and cities too we have been actively engaged in strengthening the capacities of councillors (elected representatives) as well as the bureaucracy. The socio-political perception of the capacity and credibility of the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) as well as the Nagarpalikas (Municipalities) as effective governing institutions needs to be changed. This is a challenging task as there is resistance from the bureaucracy and patriarchal institutions.

Capacity Building of Panchayati Raj Institutions

The panchayati raj system has been handed over to the people through a parliamentary enactment, rather than the people achieving this by their own efforts. Hence, people need to develop faith in the decentralised governance process and the PRIs also need to demonstrate their credibility. To strengthen the PRIs, citizens groups and PRI representatives need to be informed and educated on the key features and potentials of decentralised governance. Along with the capacity building of the newly elected panchayat representatives we have been strengthening gram sabhas to make the governing system accountable in rural areas.

Panchayat Resource Centre

To develop a sustainable instrument for capacity building of PRIs so that they can function as an effective governing structure, ensure responsive service delivery and democratic accountability, along with various training programmes, we have developed an educational mechanism at the block / taluka level known as Panchayat Resource Centres (PRCs). The key activities of the PRCs are: (i) Accessing and disseminating information to PRI representatives, (ii) Facilitating capacity building of PRI representatives, (iii) Providing support for mobilising and facilitating gram/ ward sabhas and (iv) Supporting women and dalit-headed panchayats so that they can effectively execute their responsibilities.

Three PRCs have been set up in Jodhpur district of Rajasthan (Bilara, Mandor and Balesar) and five PRCs in Gujarat (Dascroi, Viramgam and Dholka in Ahmedabad district; Khedbrahma in Sabarkantha district and Okhamandal in Jamnagar district). All the PRCs provide capacity-building support to the elected representatives through visits, informal meetings, sharing information and formal training programmes.

In Gujarat, at the gram panchayat level, panchayat vikas samitis were formed to mobilise the gram sabha. Some of the effective gram sabhas observed in the operational areas of the PRCs were in Poshina, Dantral, Matarvada in Khedbrahma talukas, Arnej and Saragvala in Dholka taluka and Goriyali in Okhamandal taluka. In Sabarkantha district, to make the Social Justice Committee (SJC) effective, a series of training programmes were organised at both the taluka and district levels. An informal group on social justice has been formed among the community leaders to provide support to the members of SJCs.

In Jodhpur (Rajasthan), a block-level resource group has been formed to make efforts for gram/ward sabha mobilisation. For the gram sabha mobilisation special campaigns like wall writing, morning educational walk by children (prabhatpheri) and street plays were regularly organised. During the survey of households Below Poverty Line (BPL), the PRCs undertook a campaign to educate the gram sabha members on steps and procedures for conducting the BPL

survey. In Barmer and Jodhpur districts, two workshops were organised on conducting the BPL survey. The community leaders were motivated to extend support to the enumerators and prepare a list of vulnerable families so that they were not left out in the BPL survey. During drought, the PRCs mobilised the panchayats to monitor the relief work, particularly distribution of food kits to the most vulnerable families.



Gram sabha mobilisation

Radio Programme

In Gujarat, a year-long weekly radio programme was broadcasted to promote citizens' engagement in local governance. The 15-minute programme was aired from all major All India Radio (AIR) stations of Gujarat every Saturday at 8.00 pm. Altogether 51 episodes were broadcasted. Prior to the launching of the radio programme, a listeners' survey was conducted followed by a

campaign to inform the people to tune their radios and listen to the broadcast. Each episode was followed by a 45 minute Telephone Help Line service to answer the specific questions posed by the listeners. Around 50 letters and 20 telephone calls were received per episode. Through the Telephone Help Line and letters, village-level issues were registered which would not have been otherwise noticed. All the issues were communicated to the Development Commissioner, Government of Gujarat, who took action and resolved most of the issues. In one of the episodes, the Development Commissioner spoke on the role of citizens' in building an accountable governing mechanism. All the queries raised through the help line as well as letters were documented as a question bank. Based on this, it has been planned to develop a booklet in a question-answer format on the issue of self-governance to be used by common citizens and PRI representatives.

In some villages people formed listeners' groups to listen to the rebroadcast (13 episodes) that was relayed once a week in the afternoons for 13 weeks. To assess the effectiveness of the programme, 12 MSW students were given an assignment to listen to the programme along with the villagers. It was observed that villagers found the episodes informative and were motivated to participate in the gram sabha and felt the need for engaging in the activities of the panchayats to promote social justice in development programmes. Three regional workshops were held to directly receive feedback from the listeners. An impact study was conducted by the Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA) and it found a wide outreach for the radio programme.



Listeners' feedback on radio programme

The experience of conducting radio programmes was new for UNNATI. As we received a positive response in Gujarat, we shared our experience with the UNDP. With the support of the UNDP and the Government of Rajasthan, we aim to initiate the process of broadcasting radio programmes in Rajasthan from October 2004.

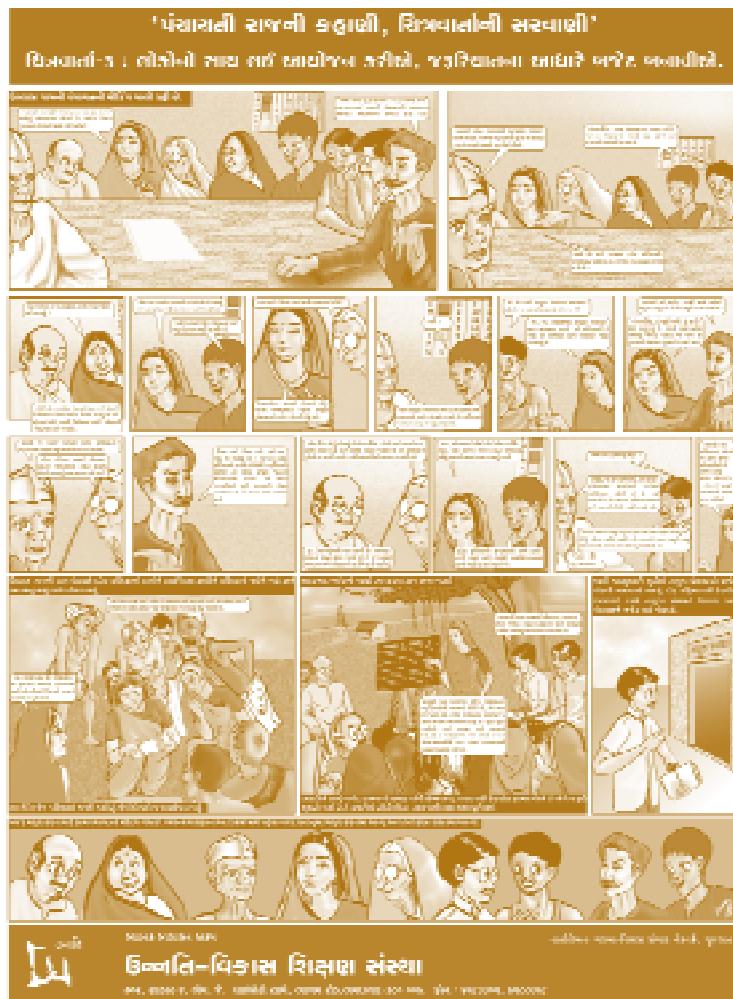
Educational Material

In both Rajasthan and Gujarat, bi-monthly bulletins (Swaraj-Hindi and Panchayat Jagat-Gujarati) have been published and disseminated to panchayats, citizen leaders, CBOs, NGOs and social

work educational institutions.

The following documentation exercises were undertaken in Gujarat:

1. A case documentation was conducted on women and dalit sarpanches against whom no-confidence motions were passed. This documentation provided insight into the dynamics of delegitimisation process for the new emerging leadership from among the women and dalits. To provide support and solidarity to the cases, our team also visited them and these cases were reported to the Government for action.
2. A study was undertaken on the participation of elected women representatives in the panchayats. The study covered 204 representatives from 15 districts of Gujarat. This study was undertaken to assess the capacity-building needs during the middle of the five-year term.
3. Wall posters on themes of micro planning and women's leadership in gram sabhas were developed in the form of comic strips and these were demanded by the panchayats.
4. 19 cases of development initiatives undertaken by panchayats to address local issues were documented. These cases were used as training material for elected representatives. Some of the cases were used also for the radio programme.
5. A booklet on the functioning of the SJC was developed. SJCs are one of the statutory standing committees for all three tiers of the panchayats – village, taluka and district levels. The booklet highlights the importance and functions of the SJCs.



Poster on panchayati raj issue

Capacity-Building Support

The following capacity-building support was extended in Gujarat:

1. A series of taluka-level sammelans were organised with Nari Network (SHG members and PRI representatives in Sabarkantha and Ahmedabad districts) to promote women's participation in the gram sabhas and in the decision-making process.
2. UNNATI participated in Ambedkar Jayanti celebrations organised by Janpath in Sabarkantha and in the dalit sammelan organised by the Banaskantha Dalit Sangathan which was promoted by the Behavioural Science Centre (BSC) to encourage dalits and tribals to participate in the gram sabhas.
3. The staff members of SETU (Kutch) and the Vivekanand Research and Training Institute (VRTI) were provided support for two separate trainings on governance.
4. Four block-level training programmes were facilitated for PRI representatives in Kutch (Anjar, Rapar, Bhachau and Bhuj), organised by SETU.
5. The Principals and instructors of ICDS Anganwadi Training Centres were given training on participatory monitoring of the ICDS programme.
6. A training programme was organised for the Samajik Nayay Manch (an informal network working on social justice) members on governance and advocacy.
7. A series of training programmes were organised for SJC committee members in Sabarkantha.
8. Two separate training programmes were organised for PRI representatives in Sabarkantha and Jamnagar districts.
9. Support was provided to ActionAid (AA) for its various training programmes and to organisations like Water and Sanitation Management Organisation (WASMO), Lutheran World Service (LWS) and The Hunger Project (THP).

The following capacity building support has been extended at Rajasthan level:

1. In Rajasthan, the government organised a full round of training programmes for the panchayat representatives through the Indira Gandhi Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Sanstha (IGPRS). In which UNNATI's team was involved as master trainers. At the district level trainings for Jodhpur we provided support for all the 9 block-level training programmes in terms of providing material and resource persons.
2. Two district-level sammelans were organised on the theme of women's representation in gram sabha.
3. A micro planning exercise has been conducted with the active participation of the panchayat and the community members.

Capacity Building of Urban Local Bodies

We have been working on urban governance issues in small and medium towns so that the municipalities develop the capacity to design and execute development programmes with the perspective of equity and social justice. This initiative also aims to promote citizens' participation to make the governing process participatory and accountable.

Citizen's Support Cell

Five towns in Gujarat (Sanand and Dholka in Ahmedabad, Khedbrahma in Sabarkantha, Bhachau and Anjar in Kutch) and one town in Rajasthan (Bilara in Jodhpur) were taken up to develop capacity building methodologies on urban governance. In all the towns a Citizens' Support Cell has been set up to facilitate interaction among citizens, elected representatives and officials. These cells also disseminate information about various development programmes and provisions to all stakeholders.

Report Card to Monitor Status of Basic Services

In Sanand, Dholka and Khedbrahma (Gujarat) a participatory report card was developed whereby the citizens' groups monitored the status of public services. In Dholka and Bilara the status of



Workshop for councillors on issues of urban governance

the toilets and cleaning of the sewerage system was taken up. This process of monitoring identified the presence of manual scavenging in the municipalities. Subsequent to this, meetings were organised with the local households, municipal authorities and cleaning workers to stop manual scavenging without displacing the workers. The mechanisation of cleaning through formation of workers cooperatives has also been

discussed in Dholka. In Sanand the issue of regular water supply was taken up. This exercise helped 80 families to get a regular supply of water on a daily basis. We also participated in the BPL survey undertaken in Dholka, particularly in the ward which had a large number of slums. In these areas more than 50 per cent families were listed under the BPL category. In Dholka a total of 4465 families have been listed under the BPL. A campaign for selection of BPL families was undertaken also in Bilara.

Capacity Building on Preparation of Development Plans

In Dholka and Sanand towns an exercise was carried out to review the development plans.

A series of technical sessions were organised for the officials and elected representatives for preparing the development plans. The municipalities believed that the understanding of the development plan will help them in visualising a complete plan for their towns. Two rounds of exposure visit (April and September 2003) were organised for municipal elected representatives and citizen leaders.

They visited Surat, Vyara, Pune, Pimpri, Alandur and Tambram Municipalities to develop an understanding of the concepts like public-private partnership for improvement of the basic services. After the visits most of the municipalities have been showing interest in taking up solid waste management.

Facilitating People-Centred Rehabilitation

In Bhachau which is an earthquake-affected town, research and advocacy was initiated on the issue of people centred rehabilitation. Land title survey was taken up covering 2300 families in 11 settlements and 350 small shop owners. The study and subsequent consultation with the administration helped in arriving at a formula to regularise the land title of the affected families. 16 cluster-level meetings were organised to seek the community's opinion on the land regularisation process and infrastructure development. Coordination meetings were also organised with NGOs who were working for rehabilitation efforts in the town.

To demonstrate the process of community-based infrastructure development, with the participation of municipality, community water storage tanks were constructed. This low-cost participatory infrastructure development initiative was demonstrated for replication.

A technology park has been set up in Bhachau town in collaboration with the Municipality, Area Development Authority and the Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority (GSDMA). All varieties of house construction material and safe housing technology are demonstrated in the park. Regular educational programmes are conducted on safe housing technology.



Preparing development plans with the community



Technology Park, Bhachau

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In order to be relevant and effective in UNNATI we are conscious of two important institutional processes:

- (i) Governing structure and mechanisms
- (ii) Internal learning systems

For strengthening our own governing mechanisms we clearly declare ourselves as an equal opportunity organisation with stakeholder accountability and transparency. All our programmes and administrative divisions are headed by Programme Coordinators / Managers and most of the senior management positions are headed by women.

A gender audit was conducted during the year. Subsequently, we have revised and updated our staff service rules incorporating gender-sensitive and equal opportunity features in the service rules. A Gender Sensitivity and Equity Committee (GSEC) has been formed on the similar lines of the Committee Against Sexual Harassment (CASH). This committee has not only taken up gender sensitisation of the staff but also sensitised the staff on issues of disability and HIV-AIDS.

With reference to internal learning all programme divisions conduct regular review and planning meetings at both organisational and community levels to derive insights into issues. For developing internal capacities, the staff have also been sent to participate in various training programmes.

AUDITED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Income & Expenditure a/c for the year ended 31st March 2004

| Expenditure | 31.3.2003 | 31.3.2004 | Income | 31.3.2003 | 31.3.2004 |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Grass root Development | 11.65 | 57.53 | Research, Training, Rural | 351.09 | 220.66 |
| Strengthening Panchayati Institutions | 9.64 | - | Development, Relief & Rehabilitation, Grants and Donations | | |
| Research | 9.50 | 12.74 | Honorarium, Contribution/ Interest | 35.76 | 32.81 |
| Educational Material | 6.62 | - | Excess Fund Utilised | | |
| Training & Workshop | 24.06 | 14.28 | | | 44.44 |
| Fellowship | 2.81 | 0.20 | | | |
| Handicap Welfare | 2.95 | 9.24 | | | |
| Relief & Rehabilitation | 176.47 | 112.35 | | | |
| Salaries & Honorarium | 57.00 | 53.89 | | | |
| Contribution Expenses | 3.84 | 2.65 | | | |
| Overhead & Administration | 27.94 | 25.88 | | | |
| Depreciation | 9.93 | 9.15 | | | |
| Unutilised Balance | 44.44 | | | | |
| Total | 386.85 | 297.91 | Total | 386.85 | 297.91 |

Balance Sheet as on March 31,2004

| Liabilities | 31.3.2003 | 31.3.2004 | Assets | 31.3.2003 | 31.3.2004 |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Opening Balance | 330.87 | 375.31 | Fixed Assets | 51.56 | 84.05 |
| Unutilised Balance | 44.44 | -44.44 | Cash at Bank & Cheques on Hand | 321.94 | 246.60 |
| Expenses | 1.80 | 5.33 | Advances | 3.61 | 5.55 |
| Total | 377.11 | 336.20 | Total | 377.11 | 336.20 |

THE GOVERNING BOARD

1. Mr. Binoy Acharya
12, Ashokwadi Apts, Panchwati Marg
Ahmedabad 380 006. Gujarat
2. Prof. Debi Prasad Mishra
Institute of Rural Management
Anand (IRMA)
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Kheda 389 001, Gujarat
3. Dr. Lata Kachwaha
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Society for Participatory Research
in Asia (PRIA)
42, Tughlakabad Institutional Area
New Delhi 110 062.
6. Ms. Sharmishtha Jagawat
Sadguru Water and Development Foundation
P. O. 71, Near R.T.O. Naka, Dahod
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702, SAKAR - IV
Opp. M. J. Library, Ashram Road
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UNNATI – Facilitation Centre for Rehabilitation

Opp. Kariadham, Nr. Bhachau Railway Station,
Bhachau, Kutch – 370 140
Ph: 02837-224135
E-mail: unnati_kutch@icenet.net

OUR DONOR PARTNERS

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2. CARE India
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3. CONCERN
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No. 1 Panchayatnagar Housing Society
University Road
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4. CORDAID
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Lutherse Burgwal 10
The Netherlands.
5. Handicap International
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New Delhi - 110 003.
6. IIZ/DVV
Obere Wilhelmstra Be 32
D - 53225 Bonn
Germany.
7. Indira Gandhi Panchayati Raj & Gramin
Vikas Sansthan
(State Institute of Rural Development)
Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg
Jaipur – 302 004
8. Indo German Social Service Society
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New Delhi-110 016
9. Malteser Hilfsdienst e.V.
Foreign Aid Department
Kalker Hauptstr. 22-24
51103 Cologne
Germany
10. National Foundation for India
India Habitat Centre,
Core, 4.A. P. O. Box No. 3133
Lodhi Road
New Delhi - 110 003.
11. OXFAM (INDIA) TRUST
3-A, 3rd Floor, Commerce House-I
Judges Bungalow Road
Bodakdev
Ahmedabad
12. PRIA
42, Tughlakabad Institutional
Area,
New Delhi - 110 062
13. SDC - PRISMO
A-5, II Floor, Vijay Path
Tilak Nagar
Jaipur – 302 004
14. The Ford Foundation
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New Delhi - 110 003
15. The World Bank
70, Lodi Estate
New Delhi - 110 003.
16. Women & Child Development
Department
Government of Gujarat
9/6, Sardar Bhavan, Sachivalaya,
Gandhinagar - 382 010, Gujarat.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

| | | |
|--------|---|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| AA | - | Action Aid |
| ADD | - | Action on Disability and Development, Bangalore |
| AIR | - | All India Radio |
| AMC | - | Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation |
| BPA | - | Blind People's Association |
| BPL | - | Below Poverty Line |
| BSC | - | Behavioural Science Centre |
| CASH | - | Committee Against Sexual Harassment |
| CBOs | - | Community-Based Organisation |
| CDD | - | Centre for Disability in Development, Bangladesh |
| CIGs | - | Common Interest Groups |
| DANIDA | - | The Danish International Development Agency |
| DRC | - | Dalit Resource Centre |
| FWWB | - | Friends of the Women's World Banking |
| GSEC | - | Gender Sensitivity and Equity Committee |
| GOI | - | Government of India |
| GSDMA | - | Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority |
| HI | - | Handicap International |
| ICDS | - | Integrated Child Development Scheme |
| IGPRS | - | Indira Gandhi Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Sansthan |
| LWS | - | Lutheran World Service |
| MSW | - | Master of Social Work |
| PRC | - | Panchayat Resource Centre |
| PRI | - | Panchayati Raj Institution |
| PRIA | - | Society for Participatory Research in Asia |
| PWDs | - | Persons with Disability |
| SCF | - | Save the Children Fund |
| SHGs | - | Self Help Groups |
| SJC | - | Social Justice Committee |
| THP | - | The Hunger Project |
| UNDP | - | United Nations Development Programme |
| UWB | - | United Way of Baroda |
| VRTI | - | Vivekanand Research and Training Institute |
| WASMO | - | Water and Sanitation Management Organisation |



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