

About us

Vision

Create an inclusive society where all stakeholders, particularly the vulnerable dalits and women participate with full empowerment and gain equal access and control over services, resources and institutions.

Mission

Promote social inclusion and democratic governance so that the vulnerable sections of society are empowered to effectively and decisively participate in mainstream development and decision making process.

Strategy

The above aim is accomplished through providing strategic issue based support to development initiatives in Gujarat and Rajasthan. This is carried out by undertaking collaborative research, public education, advocacy, direct field level mobilization and implementation with multi stakeholder participation. While we work at the grassroots to policy level environment, for ensuring basic rights of citizens, we derive inspiration from the struggles of the vulnerable and field practices of the partners.



UNNATI

Organization for Development Education

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Annual Report 2005-06



UNNATI

Organization for Development Education

Audited Statement of Accounts Balance Sheet as on 31.03.2006

(Rs.in 000)

Sources of Fund	31.03.05	31.03.06	Application of Fund	31.03.05	31.03.06
Capital Fund	24249	25789	Fixed Assets	15462	15444
Capital Liabilities	13346	12548	Balance on Hand and in Bank	21241	22115
			Advances	892	778
Total	37595	38337	Total	37595	38337

Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year ended March 31, 2006

Expenditure	31.03.05	31.03.06	Income	31.03.05	31.03.06
Rural Development	4556	3772	Grant received for all programmes	31899	34228
Research	1047	561	Contribution	1366	2098
Training & Workshop	1817	3260	Interest	1198	1037
Education Material	1166	826	Excess fund utilised	-	-
Handicap Welfare	1715	-			
Relief & Rehabilitation	4535	8261			
Disaster Preparedness	2849	5498			
Support to PRI	3595	3727			
Salary & Honorarium	6053	6013			
Administrative Expenses	2673	3553			
Depreciation	897	1609			
Fellowship	-	-			
Contribution Expenses	-	-			
Excess of Income over Expenditure	3560	483			
Total	34463	37363	Total	34463	37363

As per the report given by
Charnalia. Bhatia and Gandhi
Chartered Accountants

Binoy Acharya
Director
Unnati

This is the 17th annual report of UNNATI.

We remain committed to promoting social justice and working towards improving the quality of daily life experiences, particularly for the vulnerable sections of the society. Having committed ourselves to collective learning, writing this annual report provides an opportunity to reflect and learn from the pattern of social changes outside; from our grassroots experiences; and examine our relevance.

We continue to fight discrimination against dalits, mainstreaming gender, promoting civic engagement for barrier free environment, particularly keeping into account persons with disabilities; promoting community based disaster preparedness and strengthening accountable local governance in rural and urban areas in Gujarat and Western Rajasthan. In this UNNATI continues to play the role of an issue based strategic educational institution. Two thematic based centres guide all programmes and activities: (1) Centre for Social Inclusion and Empowerment, and (2) Centre for Civic Leadership and Governance. Around these two themes, a new centre has been setup on the issue of vulnerability reduction in post-disaster situations. It has been named Social Determinants of Disaster Risk Management.

The rapidly transforming societal reality and the plurality in democratic and development discourse; and our own ever-evolving experiences have brought about the realisation that we are all carrying pieces of the jigsaw. The need is for us to come together, reflect, deliberate and learn. It is in this partnership that we see the aggregation of our strengths and experiences, and even our differences. This collectivisation has enriched our initiatives and given us impetus to sustain our programmes.

As part of our learning and reflection, this year we completed the review of our Rajasthan programme. The review has resulted in the recognition of the need to broad base the programme on Social Inclusion, particularly for dalits and organise it on a campaign mode to provide it with the necessary momentum. It was also stressed that the strengthening of the decentralised governance and the fight against discrimination should develop organic linkages. We remain committed to making constructive changes in our strategy and approach from time to time.

We would like to thank our partners for their committed involvement; the government for its collaborative engagement; and civil society organisations and donors for their support and encouragement. A word of gratitude for the staff members at UNNATI for their dedicated involvement and to our executive board for their sustained support and guidance.

CENTRE FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION AND EMPOWERMENT

Fighting against Discrimination on Dalits

This programme covers 187 villages in nine blocks of Jodhpur and Barmer districts. Apart from the ten existing Resource Centres at the block level, we have extended support to two new centres at Pokharan and Phalodi in Jaisalmer and Jodhpur districts.

Subsequent to the programme evaluation in Rajasthan, we have made successful attempts at strengthening and developing these Resource Centres as empowered and decentralised decision-making instruments for the Campaign at the block level. These Centres shall mobilise and organise the people to take up the fight for their rights and against the repression they face. Our support includes the initiative to institute a legal cell. It is our firm belief that such a cell shall work towards legal literacy, which in turn will bring about the recognition of the hegemonic oppression that the people are presently subject to- and shall arm them with the necessary tools to fight discrimination and exploitation. Apart from this,



	Covered till March'05	Covered during April'05 - March'06	Total
Villages Covered	119	68	187
Men's and women's village level Organisations	319	65	384
Cases of Discrimination raised	207	51 (of which 25 have been resolved)	258
Cases of Atrocity taken up	123	72	195
Release of dalit land	689 bighas	88 bighas	777 bighas
Land under Resolution	3882 bighas	1496 bighas	5378 bighas
No.of households linked to government programmes	2424	146	2570

Way Forward

UNNATI stays committed to learn from its grassroots experiences; challenge existing formulations and work towards knowledge building and its dissemination. For this, we recognise the need to foster and strengthen the linkages between the creation and subsequent action. Such reflection and action has been the basis of our work. For the future, we recognise the need to better align our efforts at the grassroots to the changing reality around us.

Having completed the evaluation of our Rajasthan programme, we recognise the need for creating inter-linkages between our programmatic interventions. Based on our experiences with the devastating disaster in Kutch and our efforts at rehabilitation and reconstruction work post tsunami; as well as the floods in Gujarat; we recognise the need for creating a regional platform for exchange of experiences; and learning from prior responses to such disasters. UNNATI shall work towards promoting such a learning and resource centre.

Once more, we would like to dedicate and commit our selves- as collectives; to the continuous processes of learning and reflecting; so as to remain responsive to the changes and work towards promoting equality and dignity for the vulnerable.

During the year, two training modules have been developed for SATCOM training in collaboration with SIRD. Seventy six site facilitators deputed by DRDA were trained to conduct SATCOM training at thirty eight centres. In the coming year, through SATCOM thousand Sarpanches from al twenty five districts will be trained.

Rural Housing and Habitat

In our PRI capacity building programme, we have learnt that PRIs have a significant role for the delivery of rural habitat for the poor people. However, PRIs have very little role in terms of delivery of material and technological support. In order to improve housing delivery, an action research project has been initiated in two districts of Rajasthan. Through this, panchayats and communities are enabled to use innovative construction material and technology, like- manually compressed mud blocks and ferro-cement roofing. It provides employment to the local people, as well as, facilitates availability of material at local level. Panchayats can use low-cost tools and implements to promote housing, as well as, increase their own income. During the year, demonstrations were made at various locations.



We continued to support and strengthen 384 village level organisations of dalit men and women. These people's organisations raised 51 cases of discrimination and 72 cases of atrocities in the last year. Of these, 25 cases of discrimination at public places have been resolved. We have been successful in assisting the release of 88 bighas of encroached land belonging to the dalit households in the region. 146 dalit households have been linked to various government sponsored welfare schemes and programmes.

We have also organised a number of training programmes and workshops for the capacity building of local leaders. These covered-orientation programmes on social security and welfare schemes, legal provisions and acts against discrimination and abuse; and social mobilisation.

Capacity Building

We have also been supporting twenty grassroots partner organisations in Western Rajasthan and twenty six voluntary organisations in Gujarat. The partners engage with a wide variety of issues including- citizenship rights for the migrants from Pakistan, public healthcare and issues relating to social discrimination. The support covers project and organisational management, documentation assistance and helping develop linkages with technical and financial organisations.

Mainstreaming Gender

UNNATI recognises the need for encouraging women, both as change agents and those from the community to recognise and fight for their rights in the private and public spheres of society, including within their homes, at the work place and market place and within the governance realm. We organised twelve two-day training programmes of women dalit leaders in Rajasthan on gender constructs, violence against women and right to information.

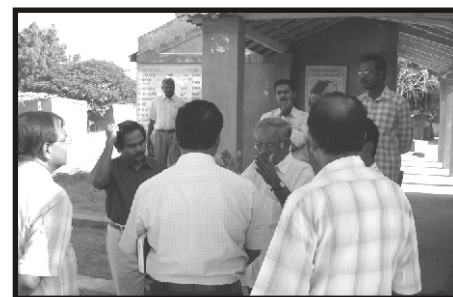
UNNATI facilitated the Gender Audits within three organisations to assess the situation of women at the workplace. Subsequently, we assisted our partners to formulate and articulate their gender policies to protect and promote the rights of the women members and workers. We recognise the need to review and assess the situation from time to time; and remain committed to conduct audits and evaluation in the future.

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

We have been addressing social vulnerabilities in the post-disaster situations. During the year, we worked on post-disaster recovery in South India tsunami affected areas, Gujarat floods and continued our interventions in Gujarat earthquake affected areas of Kutch.

Indian Ocean Tsunami in December 2004 was one of the worst disasters in the recent history. In Kanniakumari (Tamilnadu) and Kollam (Kerala), local NGOs and international organisations have been supported to articulate vulnerability perspective in their programmes and to develop criteria for targeting, appropriate activities and methodology of interventions. Technical support was provided in the areas of interim shelter, livelihood promotion, permanent shelter and psycho-social care. One of the significant support was reconstruction of 50 houses in Muttom and 142 houses in Poothurai and Eraymanthurai, initiated by SIFFS- with participatory framework, design, planning and technical supervision.

Government guidelines for reconstruction of permanent houses were reviewed and suggestions made for modifications. Many of the suggestions are related to location and orientation of the building, use of alternative materials and technologies. Technical guidelines were shared with the organisations working in Nagapattinam and Kanyakumari. UNNATI was also involved in working group of NIRD to articulate this perspective in policy framing for all the tsunami affected states. The kanyakumari based NGOs and one panchayat representative visited Gujarat to understand the participatory rehabilitation process. Three workshops (February March 05 and January 06) were organised in partnership with local network to review and plan the rehabilitation process.



Radio programmes were organised, along with telephone help line to promote citizen and PRI representatives' education. During the year, 50 (weekly fifteen minutes duration) radio programmes were broadcast. This includes issues of Gram Sabha participation, girl child enrolment,

improving basic services, domestic violence, among others. On average, ten calls and twenty postcards were received per episode seeking more information and sharing issues and problems.

For the capacity building of PRI representatives, local Resource Groups of about thirty persons have been identified and trained at each block level.

UNNATI has also been working with PRIA on mapping the devolution under decentralised governance in Rajasthan. It is our firm belief that the initiatives at the grassroots must be provided with necessary provisioning of funds and functionaries to further the objectives of decentralisation. During the year, we conducted a Review meeting to map and share the experiences and identify concerns relating to devolution. the meeting included the Zilla Pramukh, Jodhpur, and the district and local level administration.

In Gujarat, we have continued to work towards the strengthening of the Social Justice Committees in 480 panchayats in eleven talukas in Ahmedabad and Sabarkantha districts. In partnership with the Behavioural Science Centre, we have been able to extend the intervention to five hundred panchayats in four districts. As a result of our support, other civil society organisations have shown interest in the approach; and UNNATI helped promote a state level network of the Committees. We also organised four rounds of training for eighteen panchayats on the constitutional provisions of the Tribal Self Rule, under the PESA. We have also been working to create active citizen engagement through training programmes and orientation workshops on matters of decentralised governance, legal provisions, service delivery and community based monitoring.

The programmatic intervention has made constructive changes within the institutions of governance at the district and state levels. For example- as a part of the state-wide coalition, the panchayats have protested against the state policy of leasing panchayat wastelands to private industries. The networks of civic associations have worked as pressure groups for better implementation and monitoring various government programmes.

families without land entitlements is being prepared in Idar, Modasa and Kadi towns.

In the Gujarat Social Forum held in March 2006, five seminars were organised on Urbanisation and Governance.

In Bilara municipality of Jodhpur district, we undertook a Pre-Election Voters' Awareness Campaign. The primary objective was to assist the prospective candidates in filing nominations and encouraging informed voting. Subsequent to the election, we conducted a one day orientation workshop for the elected representatives of Bilara and Pipar city municipalities.

Based on our initiative on abolition of manual scavenging practices in the municipality; we facilitated the formation of an autonomous community-based organisation of the manual scavengers. We have also been working to help link these vulnerable families with various government sponsored schemes and programmes.

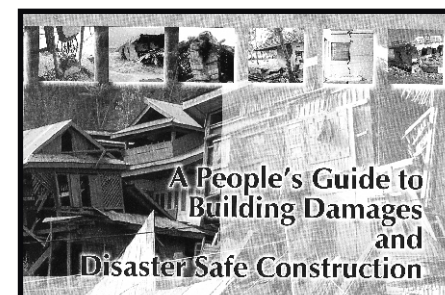
We have also initiated work on Urban Governance in Jodhpur. Work on city resource mapping has been started.

Strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions

Promoting democratic values includes active engagement of the people in the decision making processes- particularly in matters that directly affect their lives. Towards realisation of the objective of equitable development, it is necessary to encourage the vulnerable sections to engage meaningfully with the institutions of governance.

In Rajasthan, capacity building of elected women representatives of PRIs has been initiated with the support of UNDP, Government of India and Rajasthan. Under this, six PRCs have been setup at block level. UNNATI implemented the capacity building training programme in Jodhpur district, as a part of the state-wide training programme for the elected representatives. A training of trainers for Resource Group members and the Resource Centre staff on literacy was organised. This was done with the objective of promoting basic literacy skills among the Women Elected Representatives. Apart from this, under the monitoring of basic services, UNNATI conducted a district-wide girl child enrolment-tracking programme at the school level.

Community awareness material in Tamil and Malayalam were developed and disseminated. A booklet 'People's Guide to Building Damages and Safe Construction' was prepared for primary orientation to adopt safe building construction practices. With background of these initiatives for post-tsunami reconstruction and earlier for Gujarat earthquake, UNNATI as a member of BASIN South Asia, a knowledge platform of NGOs working for sustainable habitat development, is coordinating theme of Disaster Reconstruction and Rehabilitation. Some of the disaster related publications have been placed on the BASIN website (www.devalt.org)



In response to the floods in Gujarat, local NGOs have been supported to take up initial relief and rehabilitation work in the districts of Ahmedabad, Vadodra, Navsari, Surat and Surebdranagar. The families covered under relief are: food 1497, household articles 500, shelter material 1513, agricultural input 293.

In the earthquake-affected areas of Kutch in Gujarat, as many of the houses were built without safety features, 226 houses were retro-fitted and 75 houses were upgraded. This moves to construction of 493 permanent houses, 497 retro-fittings and shelter up-gradation for 497 houses.



In eight settlements, community based disaster preparedness (CBDP) have been developed. Followed by this, disaster proofing activities, initiated by the community were supported (water harvesting structure, pipelines, solar lights) During the year, staff visited Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Uttaranchal to learn and document disaster preparedness practices. Helpage India was supported for their community mobilisation activities on disaster responses for the elderly.

In addition, 345 women from 13 villages were trained for embroidery work as an additional source of livelihood. We have also been working on developing forward and backward linkages- in terms of material supply, sales and distribution channels and design support to the women. We have instituted an inventory management system for Doree.



CENTRE FOR CIVIC LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

Promotion of Civic Leadership

Effective governance demands informed engagement from the civil society; which in turn can work to hold the state accountable to the citizens; and also engage constructively with the governance processes. In Gujarat, a training of trainers for NGO representatives was conducted to train Citizen Educators. These Citizen Educators, in turn were involved in the mobilisation and capacity building of the Citizen Leaders. A total of 850 Citizen Leaders have been trained to work in collaboration with the state and the community; with committed concern for the vulnerable. Apart from this, training manuals on gender sensitisation and mobilising and organising have been prepared. UNNATI has been working to promote Citizen Collectives called Panchayat Vikas Samitis in the Sabarkantha and Ahmedabad districts, with the objective of increasing effective citizen engagement in the Gram Sabhas.

In the cities and towns, UNNATI has been conducting training on good governance and construction technology for infrastructure development in eight towns of Sabarkantha and Ahmedabad districts for citizen leaders. Such training programmes provide the necessary, and often missing, opportunity for civic engagement in the functioning of the municipalities; apart from holding it accountable to the towns.

During the reporting period, four editions of Vichar in Hindi and Gujarati; and six editions of Swaraj in Hindi and Panchayat Jagat in Gujarati were published and circulated amongst civil society organisations, government agencies and local administration, elected representatives and other interested institutions.

Strengthening Urban local Bodies

Participatory Report Cards were conducted using simple indicators to monitor water supply, garbage collection and cleanliness in Dholka and Sanand. Detailed plans for improvement are under preparation in consultation with the citizen groups and civic associations. Apart from this, the results of the community based monitoring were discussed with the community in five municipalities of Sabarkantha district. For us, this collective sharing is an opportunity to orient the civic associations to undertake the work independently, over a period of time. It also serves to evaluate the functioning of the municipalities, identify gaps and create platforms for holding the municipality accountable to the citizens.

UNNATI has been facilitating ward-level meetings in towns of Ahmedabad and Sabarkantha districts. The primary issues raised by the citizens relate to their poor accessibility towards basic services, non-inclusion in the B P L list and absence of land entitlement. More than 350 people of the traditionally migrant Vaghri community were included in the voters' list as a result of the ward meetings.

Detailed operational plans for solid waste management were prepared for Bavla and Kadi municipalities. Four towns in Sabarkantha have requested our support in preparing the Waste management plans for the municipality. Such technical and managerial support provides us with the opportunity to create an interface between the municipal authorities and civil society associations. Such a space, in future, can be utilised for promoting pro-poor planning initiatives and programmes. We have also been working to create educational material on household level solid waste management. A street play was developed; along with handbills and pamphlets to create civic education on the subject. The monthly newsletter Nagarvani was published from five towns. Details of the municipal budgets were also shared through Nagarvani with the citizens.

It has been our experience that lack of systemic data often results in inaccessibility towards basic services for the poorer sections, which in turn compounds their deprivation. UNNATI conducted slum-mapping exercises in Prantij, Idar and Modasa towns. A database of

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