



Annual Report 2006 - 07



UNNATI

Organisation for Development Education

This is the 18th Annual Report of UNNATI.

For the purpose of writing this report we conducted an internal exercise of collectively reviewing our activities during the year; maintaining our emphasis of identifying key learnings from our field level experiences, including those of our partners. Such reflection and subsequent action provides the basis of all our future work. Guided by the objective of fighting discrimination in all its forms, we draw inspiration from the thematic areas of – Social Inclusion and Empowerment and Civic Leadership and Governance. In the intersections and possibly, convergence- of these thematic areas, lie UNNATI's programmes and activities.

In continuation of our activities during the last three years, this year, our work was organised around the various programmatic areas, including- fighting discrimination against dalits, mainstreaming gender, promoting civic engagement for universal access; 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.

During the year, we have been working on building a Knowledge Resource Centre. It is our sincere attempt at consolidating, building upon and contributing through our work and experiences towards knowledge building; and its dissemination- in multiplicity of forms and utility. We believe that such knowledge, drawn from the community can translate into effective strategic and policy formulation for the benefit of the poor and vulnerable sections of the society.

As always, our sincere thanks for the support from various quarters, especially the vulnerable sections of the society; who provide meaning to our presence and reason for our future work.

Promoting Civic Leadership and Governance

In recognition of the immediate need for mainstreaming the concerns of the vulnerable sections of the society in the processes of governance and ensuring that its outcomes benefit the poor; UNNATI has been working to promote accountable local governance. While the programmatic activities work to strengthen the available space, provided constitutionally for the vulnerable to articulate and address their concerns; we have also been working to create further space through collaboration with the government and its agencies. During the year, we have continued our work in the rural and urban areas of Western Rajasthan and Gujarat. The activities can be broadly classified under the following objective heads:

Strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions

As a part of our efforts at strengthening the Panchayati Raj Institutions, we have continued our work through the Panchayat Resource Centres. Such Centres work to provide capacity building support to the elected representatives, particularly to women and those from the vulnerable sections of the society. In addition, we have also been working through networks of citizen leaders to further civic education and create an enabling environment for effective democratic decentralised governance.

Promoting People's Participation in Development Processes and Furthering Social Justice

In Gujarat, we trained 240 citizen leaders, including 50 women, from 40 Gram Panchayats in eight talukas of Ahmedabad and Sabarkantha districts on provisions of the Right to Information Act, National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme and their role in furthering citizen education on democratic values.



Furthering citizen education to promote democratic values in the rural areas of Gujarat.

We have also been working to promote and strengthen the networks of such citizen leaders. At present, we have been supporting and working to

strengthen three such networks- the Advocacy Committee works with ten members each to further citizen education on issues relating to NREGS and its monitoring. The Pan-

chayat Vikas Samiti works to address inequities at the village level within the governance framework; while the Mahila Vikas Samitis work to raise issues relating to violence against women and furthering citizen education, particularly among the women to promote accountability of governing institutions.

Table : Networks of Citizen Leaders in Gujarat

S.No.	Committee	Activities	Outcome
1.	Advocacy Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Educating the community about the NREGS - Monitoring the Implementation of the NREGS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More than 1000 people oriented on NREGS - Demand for job cards under NREGS
2.	Panchayat Vikas Samiti	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sharing of BPL lists at village level and identifying issues therein - Orientation on point system for BPL - Identified drop out students, especially girls and supported parent counselling on enrolment of the girl children. - Drop out students were encouraged to return to schools. - Regular monitoring of basic services - Supported Interface between govt. officials and villagers to facilitate access to various schemes - Monitoring the attendance and functioning of village level workers (two villages) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Surveys were administered again. - Girls in 10 Panchayats of five talukas in 3 districts have been enrolled in the schools - Mid-day meals, anganwadi and PDS services were monitored in 10 Panchayats. The regular monitoring has helped improve the quality of meals. - Has been institutionalised in two villages of Dholka in Ahmedabad district.
3.	Mahila Vikas Samiti	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mobilising community and village level institutions to raise cases of violence against women - Educating the community on issues relating to NREGS and RTI - Strengthening interface between Panchayat and women through regular deliberations - Extending Paralegal support to women through linkages with Centre for Social Justice - Gender sensitisation 	

In Rajasthan, citizen leaders have been organised into Resource Groups at the block level for supporting and facilitating the functioning of the women elected representatives at the Gram Panchayat level. Such supportive instrumentalities can work to strengthen the functionaries of decentralised governance institutions. It promotes the participation of women in the public domain and helps engender women's agenda at the Gram Sabha and Ward Sabhas. In addition, UNNATI broadcasts a fifteen minute radio programme on issues relating to role of Panchayats and elected women representatives in PNDT Act, domestic violence, BPL list preparation and identification, Right to Information, land encroachment, land and revenue, disability and drought relief work. During the year, 52 episodes were broadcast. To facilitate citizen responses, we organised a telephone helpline and received and responded regularly to queries through postcards. This helps us identify local issues and develop responses to promote people's participation. Such responses help assess training needs, define focus of our interventions and develop educational material.

In addition, we have also been working to foster associations of elected representatives, particularly women. During the year, we worked to strengthen the network of elected women representatives in Jodhpur. We continued to work in all nine blocks of Jodhpur district through a block level Panchayat Resource Centre. The Centre works as an interface between the local administration, elected representatives and the community to facilitate access to basic services and social security and welfare schemes. In addition, six Gram Panchayats with women Sarpanches in each block of the district were identified. Through the activities of the Panchayat Resource Centres at the block level, it was ensured that the Panchayat's office remains open for at least two hours each day. In addition, the PRC staff provided hand holding support to facilitate the functioning of the women Sarpanches. The associations, therefore, become platforms for sharing of experiences and knowledge; and further the participation of women in public decision making.

During the year, four editions of our bulletin Swaraj in Hindi and Panchayat Jagat in Gujarati were published and circulated amongst civil society organisations, government agencies, local administration, elected representatives and other interested institutions. Such publications are expected to

promote civic education on values of democracy and social justice and facilitate the functioning of elected representatives and local administration.

Facilitating Effective Service Delivery, particularly for the Vulnerable Groups

UNNATI has been working to facilitate effective basic services delivery, with particular attention to the vulnerable sections- such as women, dalits and tribals. In Gujarat, the Panchayat Vikas Samitis, in consultation with the elected representatives have been monitoring basic services such as the Mid-Day Meal and the functioning of village level workers; as well as promoting girl child enrolment at the primary school level. Similarly, in Rajasthan, the Resource Groups at the block level have been facilitating the monitoring of the Mid-Day Meal and ICDS services by the Elected Representatives.

We believe that such activities work to create institutional mechanisms for holding the public service providers accountable to the people; and help identify the individuals, families and communities presently being denied their rightful entitlement for various social-political and economic reasons. Innovative and low-resource activities help promote collective monitoring and contribute towards the processes of social organisation; which can subsequently take up issues relating to social oppression and systemic denial.

Strengthening Democratic Traditions and Practices

During the year, we undertook a Pre-Election Voters' Awareness Campaign in 203 panchayats of six talukas in five districts of Gujarat. A state level consultation was organised in which more than twenty civil society organisations took part. As part of the initiative, we were involved in the preparation and dissemination of educational material relating to the processes and agency involvement in the election process. In addition, we also extended support to dalit and tribal candidates, especially women.



Extending support to women candidates during elections

This year, we have also been working on an integrated communication package for mobilising citizen participation in the Ward Sabhas and Gram Sabhas in Rajasthan and Gu-



Paanchu Panchi: Promoting citizen participation in public decision making at the village level.

jarat. As a part of the package, calendars, posters, stickers and danglers with relevant graphic content have been prepared. In addition, two twenty five minute video films titled 'Hamaari Gram Sabha' and 'Panchayat Meeting' have also been prepared. We have also published a status report of Panchayati Raj Institutions in Western Rajasthan- detailing the functioning of dalit and women elected representatives in the region, financial status of the three tiered institutions and successful initiatives.

We believe that such initiatives shall work to strengthen democratic practices and promote inclusive decision making, thereby providing opportunity for the vulnerable sections to participate and provide avenues for their mainstreaming.

Enabling Governance Institutions to Reform

In Gujarat, we have been involved with the training of select



A trained official facilitating capacity building through the SATCOM initiative in Gujarat

government officials for facilitating the capacity building of the elected representatives in the state. 76 officials from various government departments from across the state have been trained on the construct of good governance; and on the functioning and financing of Panchayats. Subsequently, the trained officials have facilitated the training of more than 1700 elected representatives through SATCOM in 25 districts of the state.

Under the Panchayati Raj Jagrukta Abhiyaan, we were involved with the capacity building of women Elected Representatives in the Ahmedabad, Kutch, Jamnagar and Sabarkantha districts. The training programme focussed on effective functioning of elected representatives. In addition, we also trained Taluka and Zilla Panchayats representatives in eleven talukas of Ahmedabad district.

We also facilitated Reflection Workshops for the Social Justice Committees in Sabarkantha and Ahmedabad districts. The workshop helped review the activities of the Committee and outline the future course of action. Based on the workshop, the Committees identified their inability in dealing with cases of atrocities and the urgent need to focus on NREGS related issues and work towards improving the quality of service delivery.



Women raising their issues and concerns at a capacity building programme under the Panchayati Raj Jagrukta Abhiyaan

We also collaborated with the Tribal Development Department, Government of Gujarat to facilitate a campaign for the Tribal Area Development Programme in two districts. We conducted a two day training programme for government officials and civil society organisations on related issues and objectives of the campaign.

In Rajasthan, we conducted four rounds of trainings for the elected representatives, particularly for women. In recognition of the need for strengthening the relationship between women and land- as the primary source of livelihood, we conducted a two day training programme on land and revenue related issues in all nine blocks of Jodhpur district. We also conducted one day training programmes at the Block and Gram Panchayat level on the constitution, authorities and functioning of the Standing Committees. A two day training programme for all elected representatives in the district was conducted covering micro level planning, proper utilization of the budget provisions under drought relief and on the state supported schemes for rural development.



Promoting participatory planning and budgeting at the Gram Panchayat level

We recognise the need to intensify efforts to vitalise and improve the functioning of constitutional entities- such as the State Finance Commissions and the District Planning Committees in both Rajasthan and Gujarat. We also feel that there is a general lack of capacity to facilitate their functioning at the district level.

Building Linkages with other Institutions working to Promote Accountable Governance

UNNATI has also been working to develop and strengthen networks of individuals and institutions working to promote accountable governance and promote democratic values. We conducted a number of studies including the role of Panchayats in implementation of NREGS, status of proactive disclosure under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan, the implementation progress of the Right to Information, implementation of PESA and a Status study of Panchayats in Jodhpur district and Western Rajasthan. Such studies are expected to generate further research, encourage informed policy formulation and provide feedback for initiating corrective action for current programmes and activities of the government.

We also provided capacity building support to a large number of civil society organisations in Rajasthan and Gujarat on issues relating to governance, role of decentralised governance institutions in Natural Resource Management, implementation of NREGS etc. Such networking is expected to promote an all round culture of reflective action, grounded in values of social justice.

With our work in the rural areas of Rajasthan and Gujarat, we recognise the need for strategic interventions for strengthening decentralisation. We also recognise the need for critical regional and national level interventions. At UNNATI, we remain committed to utilise out grassroots activities and experiences to facilitate the creation of scaled institutional mechanisms- which can assist empowered and inclusive decision making at the local levels and hold it accountable to the community and its constituents.

Rural Housing and Habitat

Housing security is essential to the notion of vulnerability reduction in the rural areas. The formal housing delivery mechanisms have been only partial in responding to the increasing need for quality, low cost housing stock. The Panchayats do not usually possess the necessary technical knowledge to facilitate access to appropriate housing, particularly for the vulnerable households. Considering that existing housing technology is increasingly becoming unaffordable for the poor and non-sustainable; UNNATI has been working to promote low cost, environmentally sound and sustainable technological solutions for housing for the

rural poor in Western Rajasthan. As a part of the programme, we have been promoting stabilised mud block for walling and ferro-cement channels for the roofing of houses in rural areas. Our efforts have been directed at facilitating access for the poor for such alternate options.

We have also been successful in linking the construction activity with the livelihood security for the people. Towards this end, four artisan guilds have been trained and are being supported to undertake construction using such alternate technology and material.



Artisans are trained to construct using low-cost, environmentally sound and sustainable construction material and organised into guilds to augment their livelihood opportunities.

As part of the BASIN South Asia network, UNNATI organised two state level consultations in Rajasthan and Gujarat on the proposed National Rural Housing Policy. Given the partial success of the existing National Habitat Policy (1998), there was a need for conducting detailed consultations with local groups, financial intermediaries, research and technological institutions and civil society organisations working with issues relating to sustainable habitat; to amend the Policy. Subsequent to the consultations, the draft was presented to the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India and the policy document is currently being finalised.

Strengthening Urban Local Bodies

During the year, we have continued our work in twelve small and medium towns of Ahmedabad, Mehsana, Sabarkantha and Kutch districts in Gujarat and Jodhpur in Rajasthan. Our work has focussed on building and strengthening interfaces between the citizens, particularly the vulnerable and the government; promoting people centred planning through live illustrations and enabling governance institutions to reform.

Building Interfaces and Promoting Access for the Urban Poor

The rapidly widening distance- either in terms of service delivery or citizen engagement in decision making in the public domain, between the state and its agencies and the people has affected the quality of governance institutions

and processes. To promote Social Inclusion and further the values of social justice, UNNATI has been working to build and strengthen interfaces between the two.

In Gujarat, during the reporting period, citizen leaders in consultation with the community in six towns in Ahmedabad and Sabarkantha districts have worked on data collection, situation analysis and engagement with the municipal authorities for improving service delivery. The basic services monitored include- water supply, sanitation and solid waste collection. In addition, we have also been working to facilitate access to state sponsored schemes in the urban areas, particularly for the poor and the vulnerable households. 200 households in Dholka have been supported to file applications under the SJSRY. More than 150 *safai kaamdars* have filed applications for insurance. We have also helped households link with the Free Legal Aid Centre to file affidavits for birth registration, for children more than one year old.

In Bhachau, the Nagrik Sahyog Kendra has been facilitating the process of land regularisation. More than 1300 households have been able to secure land entitlement. In addition, we have also been monitoring the registration of births and deaths in the town. Four editions of Nagarvani, focusing of local issues have been published to promote citizen education. Similarly, in Jodhpur we have instituted an Urban Resource Centre, currently working in 25 settlements of the city, mostly non-notified to access various social security and welfare schemes.

In addition, we have also concluded two field level research studies- focussing on three select slum settlements of the city and on the Informal Economy Workers in the city. While the first, helped us measure access, status of tenureship and the socio-economic composition of the settlements; the second study mapped the nature of activities in the informal sector, its relevance to the sustenance of the city and the worker profile and their issues. The findings of the study were shared at a half day consultation called 'Jodhpur City: A Citizen's Perspective.' Such public consultations provide platforms for engagement and dialogue with multiple stakeholders and help develop collective concerns and strategic formulation.

We have also linked up with the Society for Promotion of Area Resource Centre, Mumbai and the Government of Rajasthan to help construct community sanitation blocks in select non-notified slum settlements of Jodhpur on a pilot basis. All resource costs will be borne by the concerned local bodies. UNNATI will extend support in developing and documenting appropriate institutional mechanisms to facilitate the subsequent scaling of the design and construction activity.



The City Essentials: A typical informal economy worker lives and works from the margins- both spatially and figuratively.

Promoting People Centred Planning

In Gujarat, we prepared a detailed paper mapping the access and highlighting the issues of the poor in Veraval. The paper illustrates the process of consultative information collection and facilitates the process of interest articulation of the vulnerable sections in the city- such as the fisherfolk, fish hawkers and labour employed in the processing and transportation industries in the town. We have also helped the municipalities of Idar, Modasa and Bavla prepare Solid Waste Management plans. The plans have been prepared based on extensive consultation with the citizen groups, elected representatives, *safai kaamdars*, informal workers working with the sorting and recycling of waste etc. All three municipalities are in the process of machinery procurement; while Modasa has submitted the proposal to Gujarat Urban Development Corporation Ltd. for assistance for implementation.



Active citizen engagement forms the basis of participatory governance processes: Such community meetings (Veraval) help identify the interests of the poor and provide them space for collectively making social choices.

In addition, we also conducted a one day workshop, as a part of the capacity building of citizen leaders in five towns of Sabarkantha on the process of revision of the existing Development Plans in various towns in the district. As a result, the citizen leaders have facilitated the filing of objections and suggestions to the Town Planning Department.

In Jodhpur, we have been working to prepare integrated habitat development plans for two non-notified settlements of the city. It is proposed that the plans be supported through various government sponsored programmes and be implemented in collaboration with the community. Such exercises work as illustrative alternates in planning- highlighting the centrality of community consultation in planning and implementation; and provide for appropriate changes in the current expert-driven planning processes.

Enabling Governance Institutions to Reform

UNNATI has been working to promote the principles of local self-governance and strengthen institutions of decentralised governance. In this, we have conducted capacity building programmes for Urban Local Bodies, worked to strengthen linkages between and with parastatal agencies and conducted research and advocacy.

During the year, we conducted studies on municipal finance in four towns of Gujarat and in Jodhpur. The studies indicate increasing dependence on state government grants and transfers, reducing own income, and decrease in the autonomy and functioning of the urban local bodies. There has also been a decrease in the functionaries of local bodies and increasing contractualisation of staff- particularly at the service delivery level.

During the year, we organised a city level consultation in Jodhpur and a state level consultation in Gujarat to review Government of India's National Urban Renewal Mission and discuss the role of civil society organisations in its planning and implementation. UNNATI participated in a two-day dialogue with the Technical Advisory Group, NURM to discuss the process of citizen consultation and its role in preparation of the City Development Plan for Ahmedabad. We have established continuous dialogue with the government and parastatal agencies to promote governance reform through implementation of the reforms agenda and pro-poor project planning and community based project monitoring.

We conducted a two day training programme on Urban Planning and Resource Management for the elected representatives and officials of ten municipalities in Gujarat. Three rounds of two-day trainings on "Operationalisation of UIDSSMT and IHSDP and Implementation of Reforms

Agenda” were conducted. 113 participants including Chief Officers and presidents from 33 municipalities in 11 districts have participated in the training.

In Rajasthan, UNNATI was a part of the capacity building initiative under the state government’s human resource development plan, prepared by the City Managers’ Association, Rajasthan. UNNATI facilitated two rounds of four day trainings for the councillors and administrative officials from four urban local bodies in Jodhpur district.

In Idar, Prantij and Modasa towns of Sabarkantha district in Gujarat, we have conducted a study on economic activity in informal settlements of the towns and status of land entitlement. The results are being used to lobby to ensure land entitlement for the poor.



Capacity building for the Presidents and Chief Officers in Gujarat: participatory exercises illustrate the bases of decision making, facilitates governance reform and promotes civic engagement

Social Inclusion and Empowerment

Fighting Discrimination against Dalits

To address the issue of discrimination against dalits in Western Rajasthan, we intensified efforts to mobilise and organise them. Under the Dalit Adhikar Abhiyaan, we have extended support to twelve Dalit Resource Centres at the block level in Barmer, Jaisalmer and Jodhpur districts. As part of UNNATI's efforts at institution building and promoting community ownership of this fight; we have worked towards democratising the activities, administration, finances and constitution of the Dalit Adhikar Abhiyaan. Regional level committees of community leaders and a management committee have been instituted to facilitate the functioning and decision making under the Abhiyaan, with UNNATI as a supporting partner.

It is our sincere belief that such participatory decision making shall result in facilitating better grass roots mobilisation, empower decision making at the field level and promote autonomy within the movement.

The Dalit Adhikar Abhiyaan is a membership based collective- with 6985 members, of which 3172 are women. We have also initiated collections through a nominal membership fee. This, we believe, will help sustain membership and promote autonomy at the local level. During the year, 3894 dalit men and women have contributed Rs. 76938; which are maintained as local bank accounts of the block level committees.

	Covered till March'06	Covered during April '06 – March '07	Total
Villages Covered	187	86	273
Village level Organisations	384	110	494
Cases of Discrimination resolved	258	29	287
Cases of Atrocity taken up	195	48	243
Release of dalit land	777 bighas	239 bighas	1016 bighas
Land under legal Resolution	5378 bighas	1359 bighas	6737 bighas
No. of households linked to government programmes	2570	301	2871

During the year, 86 new villages were covered; and 110 village level organisations have been promoted, of which 71 are women's groups. Compared to 88 bighas last year, we are happy to share that during the current year, we have managed to secure the release of 239 bighas of land.

Police Brutality in Patiyal, Balotra

On the morning of January 22, 2007, two police constables and an electrician arrived in a jeep at village Patiyal, Balotra (district Barmar). They were conducting a routine enquiry relating to the theft of electricity cables in the area. Lakshmanram, a dalit from the village was caught and beaten up mercilessly. The police jeep proceeded to Shayardevi's house, a dalit woman; who was verbally abused, dragged out of the house and beaten up- in the absence of her husband. Locals rushed to the area and tried to intervene, but they were threatened, beaten up and forced to leave. None of the constables were women. Lakshmanram was subsequently taken into custody at Mandali and Patodi, where he was harassed and beaten up for seven days. All this was done without any formal legal procedures.

The members of the Dalit Resource Centre in the area tried to lodge an official complaint. The local police refused to register the complaint. The members approached the court. Unfortunately, the upper caste people in the village are threatening the members of the Dalit Adhikar Abhiyaan and staff of the Resource Centre to withdraw the case. However, the situation remains volatile given the caste based polarisation in the area.

We organised a Swabhimaan Yatra between February 12 – 16, covering twelve neighbouring villages, which concluded at Balotra on February 17 with a huge rally. More than 1000 people attended the rally. The rally was organised with the intention of mobilising the dalit community in the area, organise support for the victims and as an instrument of pressurising the local police and judicial administration to support the victims in seeking justice.

The case is currently being pursued by the block level committee in the area.



Collective protests demanding clean drinking water and work under drought relief

In addition, we recognised the need for intensifying efforts at capacity building and identifying alternate platforms and means of administering training. During the year, we developed and implemented training modules covering women's rights and legal provisions, self help groups, dalit atrocities, girl child education and healthcare. Such structured training modules were administered at the

monthly village meetings of women's groups. The meetings are, typically, democratic public platforms for active engagement with the members of the community. This provides us an opportunity to engage in a process of collectively reflecting and learning from such deliberation.

Apart from this, we also conducted trainings for elected representatives, community leaders and civil society workers covering issues such as accounting and record keeping for Self Help Groups, provisions of Right to Information, traditional water harvesting and technology transfer. A total of 352 men and women have been trained as a part of our efforts. A seminar on contemporary issues in development was also organised covering issues relating to rural habitat, microfinance and micro insurance, development communication, livelihood and migration, quality education and capacity building of NGOs. 65 representatives from 58 local organisations participated in the three day seminar. We also conducted a three day workshop on 'Social Analysis' in the context of gender and dalit, which was attended by 37 participants from 11 NGOs from Western Rajasthan.

Based upon our experiences in the field, specially those pertaining to violence against women, we have made efforts at building women's leadership within the movement and engendering women's issues within the discourse and the agenda. Of the total 48 Community Fellows supported during the year, 24 women are being supported to mobilise the community and facilitate raising dalit, specifically women's issues at the village level. All Dalit Resource Centres have been mandated to recruit atleast one woman staff. Additionally, we have been working to strengthen separate village level committees for men and women. Such a deliberate distinction is necessary to build women's involvement with

the committee. It also helps provide a public platform for the women to raise, deliberate and attempt resolve issues specific to them.

It has been empirically observed that the occupational structure and opportunities are intricately and extensively linked with the social dynamics in the region. However, state sponsored livelihood programmes fail to factor in such forces which result in failure of large scale programmes. We conducted a research study on the shifts in livelihoods among dalits in Western Rajasthan. The study focussed on understanding the forces responsible for such shifts and their implications. The study highlighted the impact of globalisation, privatisation, and changing agriculture pattern on the decreasing livelihood options for the dalits, thereby contributing to their increasing vulnerability.

We have been working to promote water security for the people living in the Shergarh and Sindhari block in Barmer district. During the year, we facilitated the construction of 36 tankas (traditional water harvesting structures) and repair of 13 tankas.

We recognise the need for strengthening the processes of people's mobilisation to ensure the sustained interest of the community. In addition, there is a need for building wider acceptance through horizontal linkages at the sub-national level and vertical linkages upto the national level with

other groups. Our documentation processes must also be strengthened to facilitate organisational and societal learning. UNNATI would also like to contribute towards the plurality of discourse on the subject and foster greater debate at various levels, through active engagement with the media. We remain committed to reflecting, acting and reforming our own efforts and activities, collectively.

Mainstreaming Gender

UNNATI has been working to mainstream gender issues, both within the organisation and its partners and with the target groups through its programmatic activities. This year, we facilitated a Gender Audit of the mandated organisation-



Separate meetings are conducted at the village level for women: this works to provide women with an appropriate public platform to articulate concerns and work collectively

al policies with three partner organisations. Such an audit helps identify the extent of implementation, the grievance redressal mechanisms and create sensitivity towards gender concerns. In addition, UNNATI has been working to promote the practice of Gender Responsive Budgeting. During the year, UNNATI facilitated a workshop for sharing of initiatives and experiences with civil society organisations and government officials on Gender Responsive Budgeting. Presentations on current practices and specific initiatives in Gujarat were shared and there was extensive discussion on the need for promoting Gender Responsive Budgeting and issues, therein. We recognise the need for capacity building of civil society organisations and functionaries of various government departments. We have also built linkages with a large number of regional, national and international networks working on gender related issues to promote their mainstreaming.



Promoting women's participation in the public domain: Mahila Gram Sabha at Hopardi

At the programme implementation level, UNNATI has maintained its specific focus on women and their issues. We have also made concerted effort at collecting gender disaggregated data at the field level. We believe that the absence of relevant detailed information affects adversely the process of policy and subsequent programmatic formulation. In addition, we recognise

the absence of systematic enquiry in understanding the gender dimension of decentralised governance.

To encourage women's participation and provide public space for their concerns; as well as promote the engendering of public dialogue and discourse; a Mahila Gram Sabha was organised along with UMBVS in the Hopardi Gram Panchayat, Phalodi, Jodhpur. The Gram Sabha was attended by more than 200 women. At the Gram Sabha, women raised their concerns- including functioning of anganwadi, village level workers, availability of water etc. UNNATI facilitated the collective identification of remedial actions. It is our belief that such initiatives can promote women's participation in the public domain.

This year, we have initiated an intense two-year study with the objective of facilitating the creation of an enabling environment for participation of women in the public domain.

The study aims to (1) map the extent of participation of women, (2) assess the role of supportive instrumentalities—such as reservation, creation of resource groups, citizen support cells etc. in facilitating women's participation; and (3) document and analyse the historical processes of power distribution within the society. The study is being administered in four districts of Rajasthan with support from five partner organisations. Such scientific and systematic enquiry can help formulate appropriate strategic responses at the policy and programme level to facilitate women's participation in the public domain.

In addition, we have also been making attempts at strengthening the Gender Sensitisation and Equity Committee. In this, we rely on the experiences of those within and outside the organisations. The process of mutual learning shall enable the promotion of equitable work environment in all organisations.

UNNATI is also a member participant of numerous national and regional networks working on gender and related issues. Such platforms work to promote mutual sharing, develop necessary stratagems for addressing the inequity and engender specific concerns and issues in our own programmes and activities; apart from contributing to knowledge building on the subject.

Promoting Sustainable Craft Based Livelihood

We have been working with women artisans in the Kutch district for promoting their livelihood. During the year, we organised two five-day training programmes for skill up-gradation of fifty women in Kutch. We have also been working to strengthen the market linkages for the producer groups. As part of this initiative, we have been working to establish linkages with various Craft Parks in Kutch, on behalf of the producer groups to facilitate sales.

Facilitating Civic Response in Mainstreaming Disability

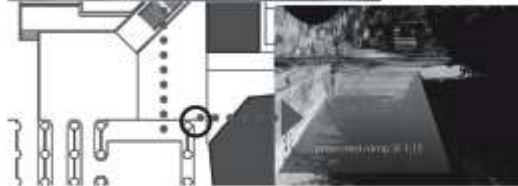
UNNATI has been working towards building partnerships with development agencies, media, academia, designers and architects, builders, service providers and groups working on the rehabilitation of persons with disabilities (PWDs) and PWDs themselves; towards creating Universal Access, particularly physical access. On demand from various quarters, this year the Access Group, comprising of architects,

designers, agencies working on the rights and rehabilitation of the disabled and PWDs; conducted access audits at the Indian Institute of Management, the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Airport and the Blind People's Association at Ahmedabad. In addition, the Group conducted a mid term audit at the Law Garden, Kamla Nehru Udyaan and the Sardar Patel Institute of Public Administration at Ahmedabad to review the progress towards ensuring physical accessibility for all. The Access group has also been working to promote awareness- through their individual professional engagements at

institutions such as CEPT (Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology) and other professional forums such as GICEA (Gujarat Institute of Civil Engineers and Architects).



• *Modulating the levels with access ramp and texturing*



Access Audit Report at the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad

In recognition of the need for creating sensitive legislative frameworks and supportive policies, UNNATI has submitted its recommendations, along with other civil society organisations for incorporating issues and concerns for creating universal access in the draft proposal of the National Rural Habitat and Housing Policy, being prepared by BASIN South Asia and Development Alternatives. UNNATI

supported the Blind People's Association and Handicap International to submit a collective civic response from Gujarat for amendments in the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995. We also supported a three day training for technical and design professionals in New Delhi.

We have also been working to publish and produce user friendly materials for sensitisation and awareness building. Given the limited availability of locally usable materials, UNNATI has been working to create vernacular education material. The film "Freedom of Being" has been dubbed in Gujarati as "Azad Astitva" for wider usage. The film outlines the importance of creating barrier free environment and the possible contribution of the civil society in promoting it.

We recognise the need for building on the voluntary nature of responses in addressing the issues relating to mainstreaming disability. We shall continue to make concerted effort at networking, collaborating and engaging with diverse stakeholders to help build a co-ordinated and sustained response to mainstream disability.

Social Determinants of Disaster Risk Management

During the year, we facilitated the preparation of Disaster Preparedness Plans in ten villages of Kutch district, with the specific objective of reducing their vulnerability to various forms of disasters. We encourage the communities to identify the incidence and frequency of disaster and promote community responses to deal with them. Such a reflective process, tapping into the vernacular knowledge base of the communities encourages them to develop collective responses and reduces their dependence on external support. This directly affects the total costs of relief and rehabilitation favourably. Of these Preparedness Plans in ten villages, rescue shelters with normative minimum level of services have been developed in five villages. In one village a check dam has been constructed. Work on retro fitting of houses for ensuring shelter safety has been done in four villages; where cyclone hooks have also been installed. In addition, seventy seven houses have been upgraded during the year for disaster safety.



Community Based Disaster Preparedness: Rescue Shelter at Lakhara, Kutch.

As a part of UNNATI's capacity building initiatives on Disaster Risk Management, this year we prepared extensive IEC material which has been shared with elected representatives, village communities and other agencies working to promote Community based Disaster Preparedness. More than three hundred people have visited the Technology Park to learn about disaster safe construction techniques. In addition, five teams, including those involved with disaster reconstruction efforts at Kashmir and in the tsunami affected areas have visited the Technology Park. We have also provided technical support at five different sites across the country, based on site specific technical assessment.

As a part of our knowledge building initiative in disaster preparedness and responses; we have initiated documentation work drawing from the different organisational experiences from diverse locations and contexts. The work covers seven

organisations in three states of the country. The primary objective is to document best practices for coping strategies and mechanisms of the community in any disaster situation; with specific focus on vulnerability reduction, social inclusion and gender mainstreaming.

In response to the unexpected floods in Barmer, UNNATI helped provide relief and interim shelter support to 350 households. Based on our prior experiences we recognised the need for co-ordinated response in distribution of relief material and its availability to the worst affected. We helped channelise cash and material to more than six hundred families from various supportive agencies. The work was implemented with the support of local NGOs working in the district.



202 jhompas were constructed in eleven villages of Barmer

As a part of rehabilitation of the worst affected, we facilitated the construction of 202 jhompas in 11 villages of the district using stabilised soil blocks. Due attention was paid to provide for the most vulnerable households-including those headed by women, dalits etc. The work has been completed with the support of four partner NGOs. We plan to additionally assist with the repair of 105 jhompas for the most vulnerable households

during the coming year. We also propose to help distribute household kits to 100 households in the district. It is our sincere wish that the affected recover and participate in vital household functions.

UNNATI has always made concerted efforts at knowledge building and sharing. All our activities and experiences are expected to promote further research and contribute towards the plurality of discourse and expansion of choices for the poor. As part of our experience sharing, the edition of the BASIN South Asia Newsletter on disaster reconstruction was co-ordinated, edited and printed with our support. We hope to continue to contribute towards such knowledge networks and strengthen them.

Building Knowledge Resource Centre

Recognising the need for consolidating our experiences from the field and promoting sharing of organisational practices and learning; we have made efforts at building a Knowledge Resource Centre. At present, we have 3970 books in English, Hindi and Gujarati on social analysis and theories, organisational development, women and development, sustainable development, legal reference books, planning and implementation, trade unionism and poverty. We receive a total of 80 periodicals, of which 29 are being regularly subscribed to; and 114 newsletters and occasional pamphlets. We have 1354 reports – including training, workshop and conference reports, research studies, process and evaluation documents of different organisations, reports on project proposals, appraisals and evaluation, apart from training manuals, resource kits and cases. In addition we have 42 CDs, 158 VHS and 25 audio cassettes; and posters and pamphlets- to be used as resource material for capacity building on issues relating to gender, decentralised governance in rural and urban areas, rights of the persons with disability etc. All material has been suitably classified, indexed and records are currently being computerised.

During the year, four editions of Vichar were published in Gujarati and Hindi. The bulletin is circulated to more than 1800 development organisations, academic institutions, government agencies and interested individuals and activists with the objective of informing development agencies of the contemporary development discourses and practices. The topics covered this year include Gender Responsive Budgeting, findings of the Social Watch Report, Gujarat after the 2006 riots and communication strategies for developing IEC material on issues of social development.

In addition, we have also been working to consolidate our experiences for its wider dissemination. The following is a list of the material developed and circulated in various formats during the year :

- (1) United We Stand: is a collection of ten essays in English outlining the experiences of various agencies at women's development and empowerment. The essays cover field level experiences relating to women's education, agriculture related livelihood, thrift and credit activity

- and rehabilitation issues for women.
- (2) **Organising Dalits:** is a collection of essays on experiences relating to dalit leadership in local governance institutions, untouchability in Rajasthan and health status of safaai kaamdaars in Ahmedabad city, among others.
 - (3) **Mainstreaming Disability Issues:** contains essays on disaster and disability, community based rehabilitation, role of community-based organisations in mainstreaming disability, barrier free environment and participatory evaluation.
 - (4) **Panchayatein aur Saamajik Nyaya:** is written with the objective of building the capacities of elected representatives of Panchayats to address issues of social justice.
 - (5) Eight films were also prepared during the reporting period including- animated films on (a) the provisions of Gram Sabha and facilitating citizen participation in it (b) the provisions for Gram Panchayat Meeting and facilitating participation and transparency in public decision making. 'Nutan Prabhat' is a film depicting the



Building knowledge : Participatory reflection for planning for future action

role of Social Justice Committees in the three-tiered Panchayati Raj structure. Saachu Swaraj depicts the effect of transparency, responsibility and leadership in good governance. To promote civic education on financial reforms and building the capacity of Panchayats to undertake developmental works, a film titled 'Mane Nani aavakna Jharna Bane Moti Sarita' was prepared. On

participatory budgeting and constitutional provisions of the same, we prepared a short film titled 'Aapna Ghdvaiya Aapne.'

- (6) We have developed a manual in Hindi 'Panchayat Margdarshika' outlining the provisions of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act for the elected representatives of the PRIs.
- (7) In addition, we have also developed posters and pamphlets for information dissemination for sustainable construction technology and material for rural housing, preventive health care and Tribal Area Development and decentralisation.

As part of our persistent efforts to evolve into a learning organisation, during the next year, we hope to digitise all our internal reports, proposals, teaching material, resource kits and training aids and case studies. It is our belief that such a centre shall work towards knowledge sharing and building across agencies and networks across geography, sectors and discourses and integrate this knowledge for furthering the values of social justice and democracy.

The Way Ahead

We wish to continue to work on the intersections of our thematic areas- of strengthening civic leadership and governance and social inclusion and empowerment; and towards its convergence. We shall continue to work to promote women's participation and leadership under the Dalit Adhikar Abhiyaan. We recognise the need for building capacities on issues relating to social inclusion and gender at the field level. There is an urgent need for building paralegal support institutions at the grassroots level. Such support shall work to protect and promote the rights of dalits, especially the women.

The government has begun to recognise the significance and impact of assistive instrumentalities, such as the Panchayat Resource Centre. In this, we would like to play the role of a facilitator, develop relevant educational material and conduct training programmes for enabling the Resource Centres to function effectively. In addition, we would like to support the Panchayats in enabling them to create models in effective and equitable implementation of the NREGS; including identification of work sites, better work conditions and its monitoring. We would also like to facilitate the functioning of the District Planning Committees- to prepare integrative development plans through illustrative model building and capacity building support to the local administration and elected representatives.

In the urban areas, there is an urgent need for creating alternate approaches in planning- through community organisation, institutional reforms for facilitating the articulation of the interests of the poor and vulnerable sections and integrating

these within the overall development plans. We would like to facilitate pro-poor planning and develop relevant training material for the same.

We maintain our focus on reflective learning and peer sharing in the programme on Disaster Risk Management. Based on our experiences and learning, we hope to prepare relevant



Regional Resource Centre, Bhachau

material and offer a training programme at the Regional Resource Centre – Bhachau on the issues, practices and approaches in Disaster Risk Reduction.

We wish to work to build the capacities of civil society organisations through intensive training programmes on issues relating to social inclusion, gender mainstreaming and decentralised governance. Our training centre at Jodhpur will be used for this purpose.

We commit ourselves to fighting for protecting and furthering the equality and dignity for all- particularly for the most vulnerable sections of the society. In this, we shall look forward to your generous support.

Audited Statement of Accounts

Audited Statement of Accounts Balance Sheet as on 31.03.2007

(Rs.in '000)

Sources of Fund	31.03.06	31.03.07	Application of Fund	31.03.06	31.03.07
Corpus Fund	25789	27186	Fixed Assets	15444	17755
Current Liabilities	12548	24576	Balance on Hand & in Bank	22115	33105
			Advances	778	902
Total	38337	51762	Total	38337	51762

Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year ended on 31.03.2007

(Rs.in '000)

Expenditure	31.03.06	31.03.07	Income	31.03.06	31.03.07
Rural Development	3772	5728	Grant Received	35286	30242
Research	561	1229	Contribution	2098	1744
Training & workshop	3260	2763	Interest	1037	1520
Educational Materials	826	529			
Relief & Rehabilitation	8061	2714			
Disaster Preparedness	5498	2417			
Support to PRI	3727	3914			
Salary & Honorarium	6013	6938			
Administrative Expenses	3553	4319			
Depreciation	1609	1558			
Excess of Income over Expenditure	1541	1397			
Total	38421	33506	Total	38421	33506

As per the report given by
Charnalia, Bhatia & Gandhi
Chartered Accountants

Binoy Acharya
Director
Unnati

Our Donor Partners

1. **ASHA for Education**
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1, University Station A 6220,
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2. **Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)**
Canadian High Commission,
7/8, Shantipath, Chanakyapuri,
New Delhi – 110012.
3. **Care India (Gujarat)**
84/1, Swastik Society,
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Ahmedabad – 380 009.
4. **CORDAID**
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The Netherlands
5. **The Ford Foundation**
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6. **HIVOS**
Flat No. 402, Eden Park,
No. 20, Vittal Mallya Road,
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7. **Indo-German Social Service Society**
28, Lodi Institutional Area,
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8. **IIZ/DW**
Obere Wilhelmstr 32,
D 53225, Bonn, Germany.
9. **International Development Research Centre (IDRC)**
208, Jor Baug,
New Delhi – 110003.
10. **Malteser Hilfsdienst e.v.**
Kalker Hauptstr,22 – 24,
51103 Cologne,
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11. **National Foundation for India**
India Habitat Centre, Core 4 A,
P O Box 3133, Lodi Road,
New Delhi – 110 062
12. **OXFAM (India) Trust**
3 A, 3rd Floor, Commerce House 1,
Judges Bungalow Road,
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Ahmedabad – 380 054
13. **Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA)**
42, Tughalakabad Institutional Area,
New Delhi – 110 062.
14. **State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD)**
Sardar Patel Institute of Public Administration,
Opposite ISRO, Satellite Road,
Ahmedabad – 380015.
15. **Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation (SDC)**
Embassy of Switzerland,
Chandragupta Marg, Chanakyapuri,
New Delhi – 110 021.
16. **VIBHA**
1030, El Camino Real #424,
Sunnyvale,
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Other Grants and Contributions

17. **Mr. Praful K. Shah**
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18. **Ms. Tinni Sawhney**
19. **Gram Vikas Navyuvak Mandal**
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20. **PROGRESS Sansthan**
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