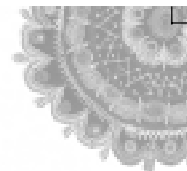




ANNUAL REPORT
2002-03



Organisation for Development Education



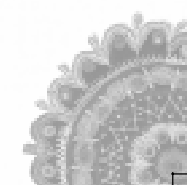
Vulnerability reduction and ensuring entitlement continued to be our goal. We worked on two broad thematic areas: (a) social inclusion and empowerment (b) civic leadership and governance. Along with direct field-level engagement with vulnerable groups and their organisations, local governing institutions (panchayats and municipalities), we extended capacity building support to fellow non-government organisations (NGOs), panchayati raj institutions (PRIs) and government programmes. We also took up issues for policy action through a consultative process.

We are often challenged by the complexity of the situation and issues. However, our institutional strategy (field involvement, capacity building and advocacy) helps build competency and makes us a learning institution. We are able to maintain our relevance by the encouragement and support extended by our collaborating partner institutions.

We primarily work in the states of Gujarat and Rajasthan. However, we strive to establish linkages to remain a part of the wider alliance working for understanding the causes of poverty and empowering people to fight poverty and injustice.



Sammelan on
Ambedkar Jayanti



Social Inclusion and Empowerment

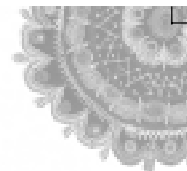
Social inequality, hierarchy and prejudices make certain groups of people invisible and stigmatised in the social structure. The social arrangements have excluded them to such an extent that they do not figure in the mainstream of development. Only certain welfare services are targeted on them without fully addressing the issue of denial of rights. Identification of communities and people who are socially excluded requires careful listening to the most marginalised. In general, the categories that fall under the socially excluded are dalits, tribals, women, minority and the disabled. These socially excluded categories cannot attain justice until they are organised and empowered. In both Rajasthan and Gujarat, we have been working on issues of dalits, women, disability, peace and harmony by directly involving in organising as well as through educational programmes for sensitising the wider development alliance and partners.

Dalit Adhikar Abhiyan

In Western Rajasthan for the last 4 years, along with 7 partner organisations, we have initiated a Dalit Adhikar Abhiyan (dalit rights campaign) through community mobilising and organising. In this process, 8 dalit resource centres (DRCs) have been set up in Badmer and Jodhpur districts covering about 50,000 dalits. At present there are 1,569 men and 323 women leaders, nominated at the village level, representing the committees at the block level. The DRCs are involved in training and advocacy on dalit issues. The block-level DRCs are run by local leaders supported by NGOs to conduct educational activities, to form village-level organisations, to develop leadership and to act as a watchdog against discrimination. Due to the effectiveness in the functioning of the DRCs, there has been a rise in the number of cases reported against discrimination at the village-level meetings. Women's involvement in the



Rally against atrocities on dalits



process was a challenge in the beginning. However, with more training programmes and formation of separate dalit women's organisations, their participation has increased.

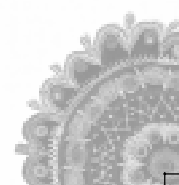
A series of block-level leadership training programmes were organised during the year. The training focused on the issues of dalit identity, articulation of dalit ideology, group functioning, organising process, planning on elimination of discrimination and monitoring of food security. Women members were sensitised to women's issues, especially those affecting dalit women, along with information on government programmes and the process of organising.



Public protest against land encroachment

In Western Rajasthan dalit families have lost their land to the upper castes for generations. A detailed study is required to understand the process of land alienation and encroachment. In 10 villages the village-level leaders estimated that 1736 'bighas' of agricultural land of dalits is in illegal possession of the upper castes. 220 'bighas' of land belonging to 32 families were released through legal action and 1300 'bighas' of land belonging to 40 Bhil families were released through the pressure put by the Dalit Adhikar Abhiyan.

A total of 23 cases of discrimination were taken up through the DRCs during the year. The cases mainly pertained to the practice of untouchability at public places like schools, village water collection points, hotels, tea-stalls and usage of panchayat buildings. The DRCs are now well recognised for taking up cases against discrimination. Raising issues in the villages against discrimination had its effect on the overall social structure. The DRC leaders now provide training to other interested NGOs to increase the organised base of the dalits. Some leaders along with our staff members participated in the Asian Social Forum



to learn and build linkages with the wider dalit movement.

All the DRCs help the dalits to increase their access to government welfare programmes by providing information. During the year, 784 households were supported in receiving the benefits under the government programmes like Package of Programmes (PoP), Indira Awas, old age pension, widow pension and others.

During the year, an evaluation was conducted to assess the process of strengthening the Dalit Adhikar Abhiyan by developing community-based indicators. The findings indicated that organising the dalits had created an impact on discrimination at public places and services. However, more efforts need to be made for developing a dalit ideology leading to a liberating identity, that will not only fight against injustices inflicted on them but also for all kinds of injustices. The evaluation also highlighted the need to strengthen women's leadership.



Training of women's self-help groups

After the evaluation, we developed a strategy to increase the participation of women leaders in the campaign. A series of block-level workshops were organised to incorporate gender issues in the overall campaign for dalit rights. As a result, women's participation increased considerably. Community-level women leaders were offered fellowships to work on

awareness building and organising. Training programmes for women were organised separately. To begin with, training support was extended to two partner organisations that have promoted self-help groups.

We participated in a nationwide study on the status of dalits conducted by ActionAid (India) and we covered the state of Rajasthan. The study focused on the magnitude and type of discrimination and atrocities, social barriers in livelihood options, state response to the issues of dalits



and the status of dalit women. A detailed report is available. The findings were published in our quarterly bulletin VICHAR in Hindi and Gujarati.

Peace and Harmony

The Gujarat communal riots put us in the most pensive state. The inhuman and barbaric attacks on women and children clearly conveyed the level of intolerance in our society towards diversity. The faces of 'suffering survivors' indicated the fact that no amount of material benefit or psycho-social care can heal their misery. They can lead a normal life only if society reposes their confidence by ensuring justice. The communal divide is so deep that it requires long-term collective efforts to bridge the division.

We joined hands with other civil society organisations (citizen's initiative) to provide relief immediately after the riots. We took up the responsibility for ensuring sanitation facilities and worked in close coordination with the District Collectorate to monitor the conditions and services at the relief camps.

In our interaction with the riot affected, we realised that until there was inter-community engagement on a daily basis and at the association level, the lost faith and security could not be restored. To practise this understanding, we worked as a strategic partner with the CARE-India supported project on peace and harmony in Gujarat. Along with eight partners we worked towards developing grassroot programmes and activities on peace building. Citizenship education, based on reconciliation and inclusion, was developed. CHARKHA-Gujarat, an institution promoted by us, identified the efforts of citizen leaders in peace building and documented them. The outstanding work of these citizen leaders was also publicly acknowledged.

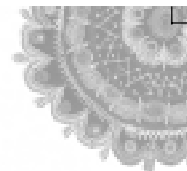
Civil Society Participation for Inclusion of the Disabled

Experiences in rehabilitation service for people with disabilities (PWDs) shows the predominance of the institutional approach. There are few efforts to understand and alter the environment and context that continue to be an obstacle to the participation of PWDs. We realised that many civil society groups like community development organisations/NGOs; teachers, policy makers, architects and the media, to name a few, can make a difference in the lives of people with disabilities and are willing to do so. For lack of awareness and understanding of what needs to be done, and unless these sections of society develop sensitivity towards the needs and rights of people with disabilities and begin to play a more pro-active role, disability will continue to be addressed within an institutional framework.

This prompted us to address the emerging need for awareness creation, orientation and capacity building of civil society to enable them to participate pro-actively in the inclusion of people with disabilities.

The process was initiated with building our own understanding of the situation of people with disabilities and identifying the critical gaps in their rehabilitation in Gujarat. We visited over 50 organisations involved in the rehabilitation of PWDs. Dialogues were also held with the media, association of disabled persons, concerned citizens and government organisations. The exploratory visits contributed to developing a critical understanding of the situation and issues of the disabled.

After this study, orientation programmes were organised for UNNATI's team and other partner organisations. The perspective of 'inclusion' of the disabled within the wider society was shared with the members of the Social Justice Committees (SJs) in Sabarkantha district. In another instance, developing a participatory community contingency plan in Kutch for disaster preparedness, the community was sensitised to the special needs of the



disabled. The process also prepared them for inclusion of disabled persons in its task force. The members of the task force were enabled to identify the potential of the disabled persons and assign them appropriate tasks.

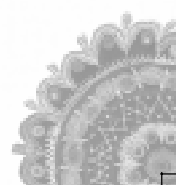
A series of community consultations were held using participatory rural appraisal (PRA) methods to understand the social prejudices, needs, aspirations and rights of the people with disability. The PRAs, among other things, have helped generate learning regarding the community's definition of disability, attitudes towards the disabled, access to services, barriers faced by PWDs, their coping mechanisms and potential. It has also helped to identify the gaps that need to be bridged for making rehabilitation more effective.

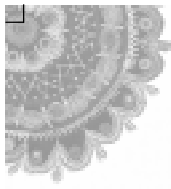
The need was expressed for creating awareness among various stakeholders and citizens about the necessity and ways of removing the existing barriers for creating an accessible environment. A database on rights and services available for people with disabilities is being developed and shared with a large number of civil society organisations.

In March 2003, in collaboration with Blind People's Association (BPA) and Handicap International (HI), a public awareness event on accessibility was organised at a public



Use of participatory approaches



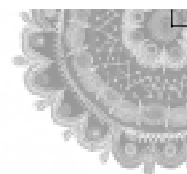


park. People from different walks of life shared their views on the importance of access. An exhibition of photographs on accessible as well as inaccessible public places in the city of Ahmedabad was also put up. A charter of demands was presented to the Mayor who was the Chief Guest of the event. The charter included demands such as accessibility to parks, model barrier-free buses, auditory signals at crossroads, availability of wheelchairs in all government offices and public spaces and most importantly making accessibility mandatory through amendment to relevant sections of construction bye-laws. The engineers and architects associations, and the media also expressed their commitment to popularising the promotion of barrier-free environment.



Sensitisation on barrier-free environment





We believe that if citizen leaders, especially women, socially weaker sections like dalits, tribals, informal sector workers, labourers, farmers and other vulnerable groups demand accountability, their entitlement cannot be subverted and that their access to development services and institutions can be improved. Along with the demand for accountability, the capacity and credibility of the governing institution need to be improved. In both the states of Gujarat and Rajasthan, we have worked towards building the capacity of panchayat and nagarpalika representatives; and enhancing participation in gram sabha and other decision-making processes.

Civic Leadership and Governance

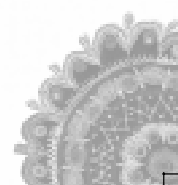
Capacity Building of PRI Representatives

In Gujarat, the gram panchayat elections were held in December 2001. Along with NGO partners we had undertaken a pre-election voters awareness campaign to promote the political participation of women and dalits. During the first few months, after the elections, training programmes were organised for more than 3000 gram panchayat members, covering 473 gram panchayats of 11 talukas in 3 districts of Gujarat. In four talukas of 3 districts (Ahmedabad, Sabarkantha and Jamnagar), panchayat resource centres (PRCs) are being run to provide ongoing support to the elected representatives.

In Rajasthan, seven such block-level PRCs were being run in seven districts. However, subsequent to our evaluation and new programme plan we withdrew from other districts and have concentrated our efforts in Jodhpur district only.

To provide regular information to Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) representatives, information bulletins are being published and disseminated. In Rajasthan, it is named 'Swaraj' (Hindi) and in Gujarat it is named 'Panchayat Jagat' (Gujrati).

In Gujarat, the efforts of 13 elected women representatives were documented. A booklet in Gujarati (Aab Andhera Jeet Lenge) was published to project the role of women's leadership. A manual was also published for the elected





Flag hosting by dalit and women leaders

representatives (Sthanik Swasasan Ane Samajik Vikas).

In Rajasthan, 55 women and dalit headed panchayats were identified for creating a community consensus to provide public space to the new leaders by hoisting the national flag. However, in only 11 panchayats the new leaders could receive community acceptance.

Special efforts have been made to build social legitimacy of women and dalit representatives. In both Gujarat and Rajasthan the PRC staff regularly visit the dalit and women sarpanches and extend support for effective functioning. The PRC staff also monitor the harassment caused to the new leaders. Any case of harassment is immediately taken up with the help of senior government officials. Village-level dialogues are held to provide political space to the

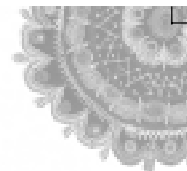


State-level convention of women representatives

dalit and women leaders. In Gujarat a state-level convention of elected women PRI representatives was organised in collaboration with the Mahila Swaraj Abhiyan (MSA), Western India Panchayati Raj Forum and Hunger Project. In this 750 women representatives, including 400 sarpanches, participated. The Chief Secretary, the Development Commissioner and other resource persons directly interacted with the

representatives. It was a sharing and learning experience for the women representatives.

In both Gujarat and Rajasthan, efforts are being made to activate the SJs. In Gujarat, it is mandatory to form an SJC at all three tiers of the panchayats to safeguard the interests and rights of the dalits and tribals. In most cases the SJs are not functional. In Sabarkantha district of Gujarat, a group consisting of activists and NGOs is activating the SJs. Ten one-day trainings were held for SJC chairpersons in seven talukas. A convention was held in September 2002 at Himmatnagar in which more than



1500 people, including government officials and political leaders across parties participated. This convention created an environment to bring attention for the revival of the SJsCs.

In Rajasthan 55 gram panchayats (Mandor block of Jodhpur, Govindgarh block of Jaipur and Alisar block of Jhunjhunani) were motivated to form SJsCs.

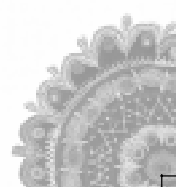
As Rajasthan was facing the third successive year of drought, it was thought appropriate to involve the panchayats in drought relief response. A state-level workshop of panchayat representatives was organised in January 2003, in collaboration with ARAVALI (Jaipur). Panchayat representatives from 23 districts participated. In the workshop it was planned that the panchayats will not only distribute relief to vulnerable families, but also monitor their condition. Subsequent to this we supported the panchayats of four blocks (Mandor, Shergarh, Balesar and Bhopalgarh) in Jodhpur district and three blocks (Balotra, Sindri and Baitu) in Badmer district for developing a plan at the village level for identification of vulnerable families. Through this process, 666 dalit families who were excluded from the relief muster role were included.

Gram Sabha Mobilisation

Gram Sabha is one of the important pillars of democracy and local self-governance. An active gram sabha can build accountability of the panchayat and initiate participatory social development. A recent resolution by the Gujarat government has made it mandatory to convene at least four gram sabhas in a year. Panchayat-level campaigns were launched to create awareness on gram sabhas with the participation of all, especially the poor and marginalised sections. Extensive public awareness programmes were carried out in Dholka taluka of Ahmedabad district and all 66 panchayats were mobilised for holding gram sabhas. Popular communication mediums such as pamphlets, camel cart and autorickshaw rallies were used to announce the date and agenda of the gram sabha.



Convention of SJC chairpersons



The response to the campaign was overwhelming. The participation of dalits and women members increased considerably in all the gram sabhas. In Andhari village of Dholka taluka, the gram sabha was convened for the first time in independent India. In this sabha, the tax arrears of the village were discussed which were then paid by the villagers. In Saragwada village of Dholka taluka, 'shikshan' (education) and 'bandhkam' (construction) samitis were formed and the gram sabha questioned the absence of the school teacher. The teacher publicly apologised and started to regularly attend the school. In the Matarwada panchayat of Khedbhrama taluka, the community made rules against violence against women and decided that their problems would be taken up first in the panchayat before approaching the police. In all the villages, panchayat vikas samitis (PVS) have been formed that prepared the agenda for the gram sabha.

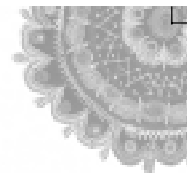
In Rajasthan, through the PRCs in seven blocks, mobilisation of people for participation in panchayats was initiated in 35 dalit and women headed panchayats.



Mela of elected women representatives

The women and dalit sarpanches were trained for effectively chairing the gram sabha. Village volunteers took up community education campaigns by writing slogans, distributing informative pamphlets, conducting village-level pre-gram sabha meetings and helped the villagers to articulate the agenda of the gram sabha.

To create awareness at a wider level on local governance and participation in gram sabha, a radio programme was launched in Gujarat. This programme is broadcast through all the stations of All India Radio (AIR) in the state. The programme is broadcast at 8.30 p.m. every Saturday. The listenes' feedback has been very encouraging.



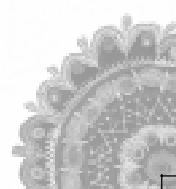
In Gujarat, during the year, three training of trainers (ToT) on local self-governance were organised for NGO professionals and activists. About 50 NGOs participated in the programme. Training support on panchayati raj issues was extended to institutions like SETU, PRAYAS, Society for Education Welfare and Action - Rural (SEWA - Rural), Area Networking and Development Initiative (ANANDI), ARPAN, Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP) and Save the Children Fund (SCF). The Department of Women and Child Development (DWCD), Government of Gujarat, had planned to train women leaders, including the PRI representatives so that they can monitor the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) programme. Out of 25 district-level trainings, we conducted 10 trainings covering 500 women. In Rajasthan, several NGOs were supported to mobilise people's participation in the gram sabha and strengthening PRIs.

Citizen's Participation in Urban Governance

We have been working in small and medium towns to strengthen the urban governing system so that the urban development plans, institutions, infrastructure and services address the needs of the poor and the vulnerable. In Gujarat, we are working in three towns, including one in the earthquake-affected areas of Kutch. In Rajasthan, we are working in two towns (Chomu in Jaipur district and Bilara in Jodhpur). The activities initiated in the earthquake-affected town is reported under a separate section.

During the year, the capacity building of the elected representatives (councillors) was carried out through a series of informal meetings and exposure visits to other urban development programmes. The councillors were trained in town planning, government schemes, citizen's charter and urban infrastructure development initiatives. Besides, they were sensitised on issues of poverty and people's participation.

At Dholka, report card on access to basic services was carried out. Following this, the municipality was supported for infrastructure plan in two wards. The plan incorporated



major issues such as sewerage systems and water pipe line, particularly to address the needs of informal settlements.

At Sanand, efforts were undertaken to develop a clear understanding about the town through population profile, profile of interest groups, sources of finance, income expenditure and municipal administration. A report on the profile of the town in English and Gujarati was prepared and shared with the residents to enable them to plan out the infrastructure development. Participatory monitoring of basic services using report card method was subsequently carried out.

An infrastructure planning exercise was conducted with the representatives of Dholka. This process involved discussing issues such as the poor quality of water and sanitation and the status of roads.



Participatory town
planning exercise
at Sanand

At Sanand, a similar exercise was conducted on the issue of financial situation of the municipality. People's contribution and mobilisation of resources from credit and other grant making institutions were also discussed. Subsequent to this, the 1975 city plan was reviewed and discussions were held on the reason for non-implementation of

the plan. With the participation of people, town planning experts and the municipal staff, a development plan was made, particularly on water supply, sewerage and road network. The plan forecast the demand for water, road and sewerage for 2021, based on which a technical plan was prepared and shared with the municipalities.

A proposal has been developed for one ward on the improvement of basic services. The purpose was to demonstrate to the community and municipal administrators on preparing a proposal for improvement of services.

To promote people's participation and ownership in the development of the two towns, ward-level meetings were conducted. One of the objectives of the meetings was to build the capacity of citizen leaders who could be a link between the community and the municipality. Thirty such members were identified and sent for an exposure visit to one of the urban infrastructure development project of Ahmedabad, known as slum networking programme. Through their visit, the leaders developed an understanding that basic services could be facilitated through contribution as well as participation of the municipality and community. It was also revealed that any way the poor spend money on basic services and if they are convinced of getting proper services, they may contribute to the project.

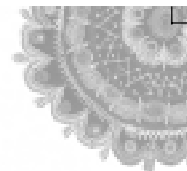
While both the citizen leaders and municipalities have developed a detailed plan for the town, the plans were not implemented due to lack of resources. There is very little resource available with the Urban Department and Finance Board and people have been given option to seek credit from financial institutions. However, there is no government resolution for municipalities to borrow directly from financial institutions. This issue has been put up to the Gujarat Urban Development Company Ltd. (GUDC). In India, some municipalities such as Alandur in Tamil Nadu and Pimpri-Chinchwad in Pune have implemented projects through public – private partnership. The municipal leaders and citizens would be taken to these municipalities for exposure visit to understand the process.

In Gujarat, municipal elections were held on February 16, 2003. In the two towns the newly elected councillors were briefed about the initiatives so that they could take the process forward.

In Rajasthan, we phased out from Chomu town subsequent to our decision to concentrate our work in western Rajasthan only. However, we continued our work in Bilara (Jodhpur district) where the municipality and

citizen leaders are being supported to draft the citizen's charter.

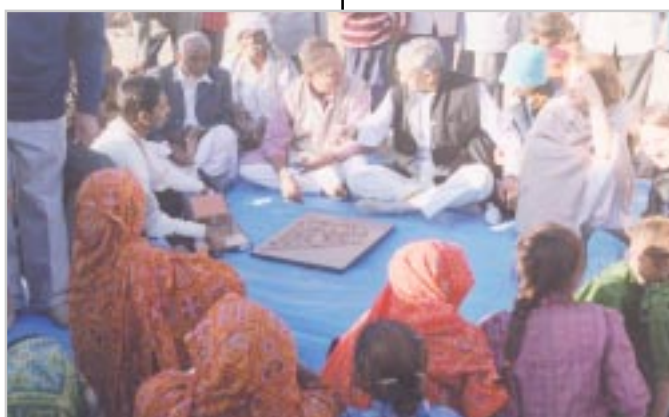
To enable the urban governance process respond to the needs of the poor, there is a great need to sensitise and orient the citizen leaders, elected representatives and municipal officials to issues of urban poverty and vulnerability. The technical and financial support can be used equitably if all the stakeholders develop a common perspective. In the following year we aim to work on this issue extensively.



A community-based approach to rehabilitation was adopted for reaching out to vulnerable groups in the earthquake-affected areas. Through a social surveillance programme, called Social Watch, the vulnerable (widows, orphans, disabled, single women and uncared aged) were identified. We have been working in 20 villages and Bhachau town in Kutch district of Gujarat. We understand that in an emergency situation the vulnerable groups are often left out from the relief and rehabilitation process. Hence, vulnerability reduction is the main focus of our post-earthquake response.

Community-Based Rehabilitation

Till date, 1404 families have been identified and multiple support has been provided, out of which 206 are disabled, 304 are orphans or children of single parents, 547 widows and single women, 272 uncared aged and 75 others. Our engagements include social counselling and community organising to ensure basic rights of the people. The issues of homelessness, access to health, nutrition, livelihood, foster care, compensation, implementation of social security schemes such as widow pensions and helping the disabled to obtain disability certificates to access social security services were addressed through community mobilisation. During the reporting year, 755 individuals were provided with such support as shown in the table given overleaf.

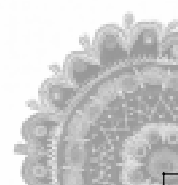


Promotion of Habitat

In the rehabilitation process, our main aim was not to provide houses but to build an environment so that the people would be motivated to build seismically safe houses. In Gujarat earthquake rehabilitation, around 80 per cent houses were built under the 'owner-driven approach' and only 20 per cent were 'agency driven'. Hence, helping people to build seismically safe houses was an explicit need. Housing is an incremental process for the poor.

Vulnerability Reduction in Kutch, Gujarat Earthquake Affected Areas

Dialogue on seismically safe housing with the vulnerable groups

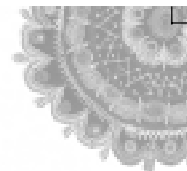


SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE VULNERABLE

Sr. No.	Type of Support	Location	Total	Categories				
				Persons with Disability	Orphan/ Single Parent	Widows/ Single Women	Uncared aged	Others/ Widower
1.	Foster Care	Urban	22	4	15	1	2	-
		Rural	20	3	15	1	1	-
2.	Nutrition Support	Urban	77	8	0	56	12	-
		Rural	74	8	0	33	33	-
3.	Psycho-Social Counselling	Urban	75	49	6	12	10	8
		Rural	85	44	4	14	8	15
4.	Medical Support	Urban	90	45	5	30	10	-
		Rural	75	36	10	20	9	-
5.	Disability Certification	Urban	26	26	-	-	-	-
		Rural	23	23	-	-	-	-
6.	Physiotherapy	Urban	42	42	-	-	-	-
		Rural	47	47	-	-	-	-
7.	Prosthesis Support	Urban	56	56	-	-	-	-
		Rural	43	43	-	-	-	-
Total			755	434	55	167	85	23

Building people's technical knowledge base for safe housing was our major thrust. Village volunteers and masons were trained in construction technology as well as use of local low-cost material. Housing support was provided only to those families that did not receive any compensation or little, if they did.

During the relief phase, 501 families were provided with temporary shelters in 17 rural and urban locations of Bhachau. During the reporting year, 249 pucca houses were built for people from vulnerable communities. These families did not fall under the government criteria for getting compensation for housing, as they did not possess legal land patta.



Special efforts were made to provide toilets suitable to the needs of the disabled and paraplegics

Training and capacity building of masons, owners, community leaders, NGO personnel, panchayat members and government engineers were carried out through exposure visits, on-site training, slide and video shows. Advocacy was carried out for fully earthquake-resistant

SHELTER FOR NOMADIC COMMUNITY

Vadis, traditionally a community of snake charmers, have settled on the outskirts of Bhachau town. This area falls under Ward No. 1 of Bhachau Municipality. For their living, they move around different villages and towns performing 'tamasha', a variety of magic, including snake shows. However, socially they are looked down upon as a community of beggars.

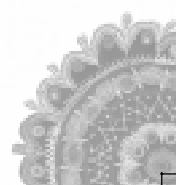
For four decades they have settled in the fringe areas of Bhachau town where in 1970 the government provided legal land title of 100 square yards. In the last 35 years, from 55 families they have increased to 191 families. Under the earthquake package, only 55 out of 191 families were eligible to receive compensation for housing as they were holding legal land titles. The rest 136 families received only Rs. 7000 as they did not possess legal land holding. Apart from this, the Vadi settlement did not have proper infrastructure such as roads and community places.

As relief support, we opened a day care centre for children and helped in building 13 temporary shelters for widows and the disabled. In the rehabilitation phase, 136 pucca houses were built for all the families who did not receive government compensation due to lack of legal title. Livelihood support was extended to 14 families. In conformity with the culture and tradition of the Vadis, a community space was developed, where all religious, cultural and social activities are carried out.

The Vadi women possess a unique skill of making traditional quilts called 'gudari' that has been upgraded by the livelihood unit to suit the urban market. The Vadi women are now actively involved in the livelihood programme.



Shelter support for the Vadis



HOUSING SUPPORT TO VULNERABLE FAMILIES

Sr. No.	Housing Type	No. of Units	Categories				
			Disabled	Orphan/ Single Parent	Widow/ Single Women	Uncared aged	Below Poverty Line
1.	Semi permanent Shelter	501	21	5	193	6	276
2.	Permanent Houses	249	12	3	37	25	172

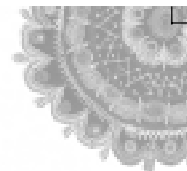
features through the district collectorate. Subsequently a government resolution [GR] was passed barring people from getting the last instalment of the compensation where technical features were missing. A campaign called 'Bandhkam Suraksha Padyatra' (safe construction campaign) was undertaken at Bhachau town in association with government organisations such as the Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority (GSDMA) and the



Campaign for safe construction

Bhachau Area Development Authority (BhADA) in which 200 families participated. Looking at the response, similar campaigns were taken up in other areas by concerned agencies. This has enabled the community to develop an understanding and practice of earthquake-resistant features for the construction of houses.

At various locations, community centres were built to provide information regarding rehabilitation during the relief phase. At present, some centres are used as day care centres. Apart from providing community space, these centres can also be used for logistics management in case of disasters. Till now, 20 community centres have been built, out of which 8 were built during the current year. Two old community centres were upgraded and



additional space was also created. These centres are located primarily in poor localities so that they can have an easy access.

As a part of promoting awareness on earthquake resistant technology, retrofitting of houses has been taken up as demonstration. In all 80 houses were retrofitted and 104 houses were provided with technical and material support to carry out retrofitting.

For Lunva village and the weavers of Adhoi village, efforts were made to provide drinking water facility through pipelines from the main water source. Through community consultations it was agreed that residents would cover part of the cost by contributing their labour while we would provide the material support.

Overall, the programme created an environment for safety concern in housing construction. The focus on vulnerable families provided us with an insight into rehabilitation. The usage of energy and water-efficient construction boosted the local economy and popularised the low-cost, people-friendly material and construction technology.



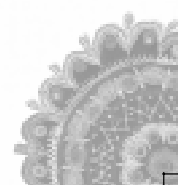
Owner-driven housing

Promotion of Livelihood

During the year, support was provided to three craft-based groups – weavers, block printers and women embroiders. At Adhoi, during the relief phase, total 34 sheds [72 looms] were constructed and 107 families were provided raw materials. Weaver representatives were taken to Chandigarh and New Delhi to expose them to markets outside Gujarat where they could source the raw material. For block printers, 12 printing units were set up at Morgar and Kabrau villages and 60 families were provided with wooden blocks.



Interaction among women embroiders from different villages



Product development process



During the current year, a five-day workshop on natural dyes was organised in collaboration with the Weavers' Service Centre, Ahmedabad, and Aparajita, Kutch. These block printers, who were previously working as wage workers, were supported to set up their own units.

Support has been extended to 827 women embroiders from Dalit, Koli, Ahir, Sindhi Muslim and Vadi communities from 23 villages and informal settlements of Bhachau town. The process included formation of groups, skill up-gradation, quality control and exposure to the market by visiting NGOs and participating in exhibitions. Through group discussions and video films, issues related to occupational health and women's decision-making power at home and community were also raised. This helped in building the women's confidence and increasing their quality of work while also providing complementary employment in the lean season.

Products made by the women were sold under the brand name DOREE. A product catalogue was also developed containing 30 designs related to home furnishing and life-style products.



Livelihood support for the vulnerable

During the year, 200 individuals [46 disabled, 94 single women, 33 poor and 27 others] were identified for starting self-employment activities like vending. After the initial survey and assessments, the needs of the people were identified and productive assets were provided to run micro enterprises such as petty shops, handcarts, sewing machines, goats and hens to people who had no other source of income. Another group of people who had small shops but lacked the working capital were provided with similar support. This effort has revived the livelihood activities without any risk of indebtedness.

Facilitating Participatory Town Planning

The rehabilitation of the earthquake-affected towns has remained a challenge as it requires not only reconstruction of houses, but also people's participation in town planning, infrastructure planning, building bye-law formulation and many other complex processes. The town planning process was facilitated to enable the participation of the poor and the vulnerable. In this process, about 1000 families in three sites who were overlooked in the development plan were included.

A participatory study was carried out to assess the status of land tenure and employment of people in the town covering 2000 households in 8 settlements. The population profile revealed that 35 per cent of the population were engaged in wage labour, 25 per cent were engaged in informal activities, 15 per cent were unemployed, 15 per cent were in the service sector and the rest 10 per cent were engaged in business. Of these, only 64 per cent of people held legal titles and the rest 36 per cent did not have any legal entitlement. From this 36 per cent of the population were not possessing land titles, 80 per cent were unemployed and the rest 20 per cent were in the informal sector.

The problem of land tenure was also raised with the GSDMA, Development Authority, District Collectorate and the World Bank team. A GR was passed specifying the steps for regularising the land title. Besides, effort was made with the development authority to simplify the approval system to obtain building permission. A citizen's support cell was set up to help people to access information and obtain building permission. Regular information bulletins were published on citizen's frequently asked questions (FAQ).

Prototype housing plans suited to the culture and need of the people were prepared. In this way, instead of paying Rs. 4000 to the private consultants, the people obtained plans at no cost.

To reach out to the community at a wider level and create awareness, several people-to-people contact programmes were undertaken. A building permission mahiti mela (information camp) was organised during October 2002.

After the earthquake, the municipal elections for Bhachau were held in February 2003. A pre-election campaign was undertaken to sensitise the candidates to the town planning process. After the elections, a meeting was held in March 2003 with the elected councillors on the process of rehabilitation.

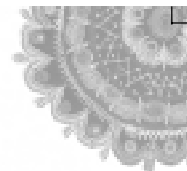


Consultation on disaster preparedness

Disaster Preparedness

Kutch is historically a multi disaster-prone area. In every disaster, it is the community who responds first and outside help comes only after 24-48 hours. It is common knowledge that if the community and local institutions like panchayats are prepared, then the potential risks of a disaster are reduced. This is more so for people from vulnerable communities such as women and the disabled as they are the most affected due to restricted mobility.

Our action research reveals that even though the panchayats were dissolved during the earthquake, the outgoing panchayat members responded immediately. However, none of the three-tier panchayats were involved in the official rehabilitation process. Given adequate training and resources, the local self-governing institutions can effectively work on disaster preparedness. On a pilot basis, in three villages and in an urban cluster, disaster preparedness plans were developed. A state-level workshop was organised in Ahmedabad to share this experience and to advocate the role of panchayat in disaster preparedness. This was attended by representatives from the GSDMA, Orissa State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), panchayats and NGOs. The workshop recommended that, the State Disaster Management Act should include a special chapter on the role of panchayats in disaster preparedness.

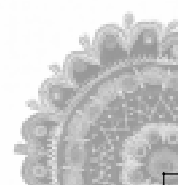


A meeting was organised during March 2003 in Kutch for sharing the process of formulating community contingency plans (CCPs). This was attended by more than 60 representatives from government and non-government organisations. In this workshop, concerns were raised regarding implementation of CCPs, routinisation of the functions of the task forces, capacity building of various institutions on vulnerability reduction and upscaling the above experiment.

Participatory and people-centred rehabilitation is possible only when institutions are strengthened and they develop the openness for mutual learning. Informal linkages with concerned agencies were developed to gain learning on disaster management. This entailed interacting proactively with institutions such as government, UN agencies, World Bank, NGOs, panchayats and village-based civil society organisations. On the issue of disaster preparedness, interactions were carried out with the UNDP, UNFPA, OSDMA, National Institute for Rural Development (NIRD) and Asian Disaster Research Centre (ADRC). On the role of panchayats, active interactions were carried out with NGO networks such as SETU and Abhiyan. We have tried to develop our understanding of post-disaster livelihood restoration strategy by formal and informal interaction with other initiatives.



Preparing community contingency plan



Building Wider Alliance and Internal Capacity



Participating in Women's
Day celebration

To become part of the wider alliance for the struggle against injustice and poverty, we have tried to build linkages with other initiatives in different capacities at various levels.

During the year, we published four issues of a thematic bulletin 'VICHAR' in Hindi and Gujarati. The themes covered were history of women's movement in India, status of dalit women in Rajasthan (extracted from a study conducted by UNNATI), needs of single women in disaster situation (extract of a study by UNNATI), child sexual abuse, social security for women, role of women in urban governance, role of panchayats in primary education in Gujarat, role of panchayats in disaster managements, status of unorganised labour in India, proceedings of the Earth Summit in Johannesburg, environmental audits carried out by Centre for Social Justice in Gujarat, leadership of dalits in governance in Gujarat, role of NGOs in development, population development policy, women in urban governance, the UNFPA's state of the world population and dalit leadership in governance (based on UNNATI's experience in Gujarat).

On and around International Women's Day, we organised women's camps as well as participated in activities carried out by other institutions. The event organised by ANANDI (Bhavnagar, Gujarat), Gramya Vikas Trust (GVT, Dwarka), OXFAM (Jodhpur) and Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA, New Delhi) for women-elected panchayat representatives provided us an excellent opportunity to know about the efforts undertaken by elected women representatives in promoting women's participation in the decision-making process at the grassroots level.

In Rajasthan, we are associated with 21 grassroots NGOs to build their internal capacity for addressing basic rights issues. Providing support ranged from programme planning, proposal making, documentation, institution building, staff orientation on social development issues, linkage building with resource organisations, developing accountable governance and statutory compliance such

as society registration and the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA). These organisations were also helped in developing their perspective on issues related to governance, basic rights, gender equity and citizenship. This support has enabled the partners to articulate issues on the relevance of panchayats in social development. Institutional development support like accounts keeping, financial management; board functioning and annual report writing has developed the internal capacity of the organisations. Further, it has also enabled the organisations to develop democratic and transparent systems and procedures. The different kinds of trainings carried out to build the capacity of partners were as follows:

Training Programmes:

- To orient the field-level staff, two workshops were organised on social mobilisation and forms of organising and orientation to advocacy strategies during October 2002 and March 2003 respectively. Different experiences of mobilisation were shared with the participants. As a follow-up of this, the organisations of western Rajasthan planned to mobilise local people and panchayat to monitor the relief work.
- The Government of Rajasthan is implementing poverty alleviation programmes in 7 districts with the support of the World Bank (WB). We were invited by the WB to provide support for the training components and develop a framework for participatory training needs assessment and effectiveness (PATNE). We have developed training modules, relevant resource materials and inventory for the nodal agency, Indira Gandhi Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Sansthan (IGPRS) as a part of the programme. A broad PATNE framework has been developed and also field tested.
- An 8-day training programme was conducted on the principles and methods of participatory training. This was primarily organised for the staff members of UNNATI and other partner organisations. A three-phased training programme was organised for the staff of Aga Khan Health Services, India (AKHSI). A four-



Training programme with partners



Participants in training of trainers

day training was organised for doctors, health professionals and field-level physiotherapists deputed by the government for rehabilitation in Kutch (Gujarat). This programme was sponsored by HI.

- Five training programmes on social development perspective were conducted on the request of other partners and large-scale programmes: Development Support Centre (DSC), AKRSP for their partners on Disaster Preparedness Plan (DPP), Aparajita - a project of Voluntary Health Association of India (VHAI) on rehabilitation in Kutch, District Poverty Initiative Project (DPIP) - Rajasthan, and the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) watershed programme.
- Three strategic planning workshops were facilitated for Jamnagar Initiative for Voluntary Action Network (JIVAN), a network of NGOs in Jamnagar district in Gujarat; Mobility India (MI), an agency working on disability in Bangalore and SCF UK – India Office to develop their emergency preparedness plan).
- A two-day staff retreat was facilitated for Centre for Health Education Training and Nutrition Awareness (CHETNA, Ahmedabad) to develop a collective understanding on 'Rights-Based Approach' as well as to discuss some of the institutional issues.
- A five-day training programme on livelihood strategies was designed for DPIP, Rajasthan, for their district as well as state-level programme staff. One training was organised for the CARITAS project staff at Kutch.
- As a part of promotion of citizen's education on peace and harmony a theatre group in Ahmedabad was supported in their public information strategy.
- During the year, several evaluations and feasibility studies were conducted. A feasibility study of 6 micro enterprise projects supported by Christian Children's Fund (CCF) in Gujarat and Rajasthan was undertaken. OXFAM International requested to study the coordination process between different countries in response to the Gujarat earthquake. An evaluation of relief and rehabilitation support extended to the riot-affected undertaken by SAMERTH. The main aim of



the study was to articulate the response strategy in a civil conflict situation.

- An evaluation of rehabilitation programme of nine earthquake-affected villages by GVT, Dwarka was undertaken to help the organisation look at the process it had adopted and its effectiveness for planning.
- An evaluation was conducted on the capacity-building support extended by AKRSP(I) to the institutions involved in drought proofing in Kutch.

These evaluations and studies have been a rich source of learning on development strategies and interventions.

Internal Capacity Building

As an institution we are concerned about the internal learning. Sharing of grassroot experience, attending meetings and conference have enabled us to widen our understanding.

- Our programme staff attended (in batches of 5) two training programmes on 'Programme Convergence' organised by PRIA.
- One person attended a training programme on PRA organised by PRAXIS.
- All programme staff were oriented to the issue of disability inclusion organised by HI and UNNATI.
- One person attended training in livelihood strategy and community leadership organised by the Institute of Rural Management, Anand (IRMA).
- Two persons attended a training on Result-Based Management organised by the Centre D'Etude Et De Cooperation International (CECI).
- Two persons attended a training programme on gender and social audit organised by the IGPRS, Jaipur.
- An organisational level gender audit by an external facilitator was carried out. This was supported by PRIA and the recommendations have helped us in developing a gender policy and to institutionalise gender equity systems and procedures.
- During the year our Rajasthan programme was evaluated. It helped us to redesign our intervention strategy.

Way Ahead...

In the coming years, we aim to continue our work on the two themes identified: (i) Social Inclusion and Empowerment, and (ii) Civic Leadership and Governance. We understand that these are complex issues. However, we aim to deepen our understanding by learning from our experiences as well as those of other institutions, including people's organisations. We want to remain relevant for empowering the vulnerable groups and influence other stakeholders so that the voice of the people are heard and an enabling environment and governing institutions are created to protect the rights of the 'poor' and the 'excluded'. We aim to be relevant in building an inclusive empowering society. We recognise that we cannot be effective without the support of others. We extend our sincere thanks to all those who have provided us with an opportunity to work, interact and learn.

Audited Statement of Accounts

Income & Expenditure a/c for the year ended March 31, 2003				
Expenditure		in Rupees	Income	in Rupees
Rural Development	11,65,068		Research, Training,	3,51,09,351
Strengthening Panchayati Raj			Rural Development,	
Institutions	9,64,275		Relief & Rehabilitation,	
Research	9,50,251		Grants & Donations.	
Education Material	6,61,490		Honorarium,	
Training & Workshop	24,05,765		Contribution/Interest.	35,75,724
Fellowship	2,81,032			
Handicap Welfare	2,95,099			
Relief & Rehabilitation	1,76,46,680			
Salaries & Honorarium	57,00,120			
Contribution	3,84,271			
Overhead & Administration	27,94,283			
Depreciation	9,93,169			
Unutilised Balance	44,43,572			
Total	3,86,85,075		Total	3,86,85,075

Balance Sheet as on 31st March, 2003				
Liabilities		in Rupees	Assets	in Rupees
Opening Balance	3,30,87,502		Fixed Assets	51,56,117
Unutilised Balance	44,43,572		Cash at Bank &	3,21,93,965
Advances & Expenses			Cheques on Hand	
Payable	1,80,195		Advances	3,61,187
Total	3,77,11,269		Total	3,77,11,269

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

Binoy Acharya
(Director)

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7. Mr. Arindam Mitra (Project Manager)
8. Ms. Malika Singh (Project Manager)
9. Mr. Jayant Bhojia (Programme Executive, Livelihood)
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23. Mr. Ashish Deshpande (Programme Associate)
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25. Mr. Chandu Rabaria (Community Facilitator)
26. Mr. Shailesh Rathod (Community Facilitator)
27. Mr. Mobatsang Solanki (Community Facilitator)
28. Ms. Sushila Prajapati (Community Facilitator)

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5. Mr. Yogesh Patel
6. Mr. Deepak Mutha
7. Mr. Vijay Sharma
8. Mr. Hitesh Golakia
9. Mr. Alok Das

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3. Mr. Hukumsingh Pawar
4. Mr. Laxmansingh B. Rathod
5. Mr. Lal Singh Bhati
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District Poverty & Initiatives Project (DPIP)
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- 8. Handicap International**
P. O. Box No. 3837, Andrews Ganj,
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- 9. IIZ/DVV**
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D - 53225 Bonn, Germany.
- 10. National Foundation for India**
India Habitat Centre, Core, 4.A. P. O. Box No. 3133,
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- 11. OXFAM (INDIA) TRUST**
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- 15. Individuals from India and abroad**



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UNNATI Offices

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ADRC	Asian Disaster Research Centre
AKHS(I)	Aga Khan Health Services (India)
AKRSP(I)	Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (India)
ANANDI	Area Networking and Development Initiative
BhADA	Bhachau Area Development Authority
BPA	Blind People's Association
CASA	Church Auxiliary for Social Action
CCF	Christian Children's Fund
CCP	Community Contingency Plan
CECI	Centre D' Etude Et De Cooperation International
CHETNA	Centre for Health Education Training & Nutrition Awareness
DANIDA	The Danish International Development Agency
DPIP	District Poverty Initiative Project
DPP	Disaster Preparedness Plan
DRC	Dalit Resource Centres
DSC	Development Support Centre
DWCD	Department of Women and Child Development
FCRA	Foreign Contribution Regulation Act
FAQs	Frequently Asked Questions
GR	Government Resolution
GSDMA	Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority
GUDC	Gujarat Urban Development Company
GVT	Gramya Vikas Trust
HI	Handicap International
ICDS	Integrated Child Development Scheme
IGPRS	Indira Gandhi Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Sansthan
IRMA	Institute of Rural Management, Anand
JIVAN	Jamnagar Initiative for Vulnerability Action Network
MSA	Mahila Swaraj Abhiyan
NGO	Non Government Organisation
NIRD	National Institute for Rural Development
OSDMA	Orissa State Disaster Management Authority
PATNE	Participatory Training Needs Assessment and Effectiveness
PoP	Package of Programmes
PRC	Panchayat Resource Centre
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
PRI	Panchayati Raj Institutions
PRIA	Society for Participatory Research in Asia
PVS	Panchayat Vikas Samiti
PWDs	People with Disabilities
SJC	Social Justice Committee
SEWA	Self Employed Women's Association
SEWA-Rural	Society for Education Welfare and Action - Rural
SURE	Society to Uplift Rural Economy
ToT	Training of Trainers
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
VHAI	Voluntary Health Association of India



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