

SAJHEDARI

30 years of quest and progress



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Jodhpur, February 2020



On behalf of UNNATI staff, Executive Council and General Body members, it is my privilege to present the photo documentation of the programs undertaken during the last 30 years. I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the efforts of our colleagues who have actively engaged and contributed in developing and implementing various programs over the years. The Executive Council and General Body members have continuously guided us in developing appropriate program implementation strategies and creating a caring and accountable institution.

From a capacity development organization to grow and develop as an issue based strategic institution has been an inspiring and challenging journey. In all phases of our journey partnership with diverse stakeholders has been our strength and identity.

In this document, our journey has been presented in six phases:

- 1990-1993: Where it all began...
- 1994-2000: Strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions
- 2001-2005: Formal entry in to the domain of Disaster Risk Reduction
- 2006-2010: Consolidation of thematic areas
- 2011-2015: Phase of Social Accountability and Collaboration with Government
- 2016-2020: Strengthening partnership for impactful interventions

During the last three phases, we have been working around three thematic areas: (i) Social Inclusion and Empowerment (2) Governance and Social Accountability (3) Social Determinants in Disaster Risk Reduction. Most of our projects are designed in such a manner that half of the project focuses on direct field implementation, particularly to build/demonstrate innovative approaches; one fourth of the work is implemented in partnership with CSOs to promote/replicate the project strategies and approaches. The rest of the project focus is on working in partnership with the government to influence policy and program decisions. Even today, our CSO partners continue to value our earlier work on capacity building and there have been demands to play those support functions on perspective building, participatory program planning and organizational development which we happily comply.

UNNATI has been working closely with the government. Government authorities take cognizance of our field-level observations on issues related to program implementation and take prompt corrective measures. However, we are careful about of not getting co-opted by the government and maintaining our autonomy. We continuously remind ourselves that our first commitment is to vulnerable community and large number of grass-root organizations working towards building an equitable and just society.

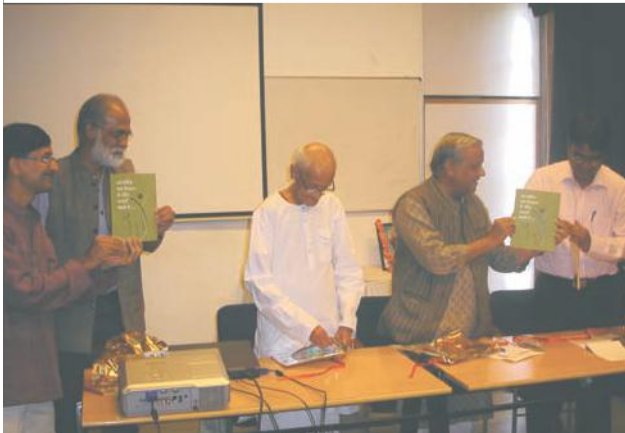
Some of the events and activities may have been missed out in this document because of lack of records.

In the coming years, we look forward to working in partnership with all our stakeholders.

I express my deep gratitude and as people say, *bhul-chuck maaf* !

Binoy Acharya

February 2020



1990-1993: Where it all began...

Support for strengthening grassroots development organisations
Handholding support to new institutions set up by local activists and practitioners

Support groups on programmatic issues: Workers' education and occupational health and safety; educational support to promote water and sanitation

Promotion of participation in development programmes by conducting ToT on participatory training and participatory programme planning, monitoring and evaluation.

Development of popular communication material on development issues

Women's empowerment education

Engagement with communities and voluntary agencies on peace building and harmony - post Babri Masjid demolition in 1992.

Research, community action and advocacy initiated by conducting longitudinal research covering 7 locations on monitoring the impact of the Structural Adjustment Programme on the poor in Gujarat.

Study on drought management in Gujarat and regional and national consultations were held on drought management.



1994-2000: Strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions

New phase begins

India reiterated its commitment to promote decentralized grassroots governance by making the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment regarding Panchayati Raj and Nagarpalika.

Three Programme units are formed:

- Capacity Development
- Promotion of local self-governance
- Research and Documentation

Capacity Development

Intensive support continued for institutions build under local leadership on various right based issues

Promotion of livelihood programmes through CBOs

Programme operations initiated in western Rajasthan - Our entry in to the Desert, extended support on capacity building to grassroots level organizations with the request of our friend and founder of Urmul Trust, Sanjay Ghosh. (July 4, 1997: Where is our friend Sanjoy Ghose?)

Support to protection of citizenship rights for oustees from Pakistan

Study on drought management in Gujarat

For promoting popular education, a manual on Street Theater for Social Transformation in Gujarati (Sheri ma Sikshan) was developed in collaboration with Garage Studio Theater.

Initiation of Charkha in Gujarat (1996) to make journalism development oriented.

Social accountability and transparency work was introduced among voluntary organisations in the new millennium: the era of governance, social accountability and transparency!

Study on Dalit atrocity, formation of Dalit Adhikar Abhiyan: a forum for assertion of dalit rights and set-up Dalit Resource Centre



Promotion of local self-governance

Promote women and dalit participation in local governance in Gujarat and Rajasthan

Orientation of various voluntary organisations on decentralization and participation in local governance

Gam Nathi Koi Panch Nu: audio visual on women's leadership in panchayati raj - widely viewed including in Doordarshan

Research on profiling of PRI members in Gujarat and Rajasthan

Support to Gram Panchayats for micro planning (piloted in Jawaja block of Ajmer district)

Panchayat Resource Centres/ Urban Resource Centre - first centre was set-up in the premises of Ahmedabad Zilla Panchayat

Pre-election Voter's Awareness Campaign as a joint initiative with PRIA and other partners

Promotion of report card and citizen charter in urban self-governance

Demonstrated Solid Waste Management and developed a template to support small and medium municipalities

Initiated capacity development programmes with municipalities on City Development Plan

Research and Documentation

Study on Dalit atrocity

Quarterly development bulletin - Vichar published in Gujarati and Hindi started in 1996 and continuing till date. In the year 2000, it was awarded the best editorial content by Mayaram Surjan Foundation by former PM, I.M.Gujaral

Set-up documentation centre for use by partners.



2001-2005: Formal entry in to the domain of Disaster Risk Reduction

UNNATI made a strategic shift from being a support institution for capacity building to an issue-based strategic educational organization.

Articulated two major reasons that perpetuate poverty:

- 1) Discrimination and social exclusion, which are rooted in the socio-economic structure and;
- 2) Governance, which is not accountable and fails to ensure basic entitlements for the weaker sections of the society.

The Gujarat earthquake (2001) that changed the lives of thousands:

- Relief and humanitarian support
- Community based rehabilitation focussing on disability
- Support for medical treatment, psycho-social care, craft-based livelihood support (DOREE)
- Promotion of owner driven participatory reconstruction
- Participatory town planning
- Inte-institutional linkage for facilitation of the reconstruction process
- Technology park set in Bhachau town in collaboration with the Municipality, Area Development Authority and the Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority (GSDMA)
- Nagrik Sahyog Kendra: for facilitating earthquake reconstruction and access to information related to the recovery process
- Nagarvani: a community based newsletter for awareness and information on provisions of rehabilitation, recovery, acts and policies regarding Bhachau urban rehabilitation, grievance registration and redressal

Tsunami (2004): support to CSOs in south India for preparation of recovery and reconstruction plans. Technical support for owner driven housing reconstruction

Accompanied the people's struggle against displacement at Poshitra, Dwarka, Jamnagar

Post Godhra communal riots: Support for peace and harmony with other organisations. UNNATI helped to develop grassroots programmes and activities on peace building. Promotion of cultural groups for social inclusion and peace building.

Dalit Adhikar Abhiyan continued in Rajasthan. Involved in a study on status of untouchability in Rajasthan as part of a nation-wide study.



Mainstreaming disability: Exploratory study carried out to understand the situation of the PwD in Gujarat. It focused on understanding community's definition of disability, attitude towards disabled, social prejudices, needs and aspiration.

To create awareness on accessibility and creating barrier-free environment for persons with disabilities a campaign was initiated. Census of India in 2001 for the first time attempted to officially enumerate the prevalence of disability in the country in a comprehensive way and UNNATI popularised the enumeration methods.

Radio programme: In Gujarat and Rajasthan (2002-04) - to create awareness at a wider level on local governance and participation in gram sabha; a weekly radio programme was launched, with more than 50 episodes that were broadcasted.

Initiated the demonstration of use of technology (SATCOM) in the field of local self-governance. Training modules were developed in collaboration with SIRD.

UNNATI helped to promote a state level network of the Social Justice Committee members of 480 Panchayats in 11 talukas of Ahmedabad and Sabarkantha.

The Gender Sensitivity and Equity Committee (GSEC) was formed on the lines of Committee Against Sexual Harassment (2003).

Continued working on mainstreaming gender and facilitated gender audits. In 2004, UNNATI supported Gujarat government in the preparation of gender policy for the state - Nari Gaurav Niti was drafted.



2006-2010: Consolidation of thematic areas

- Social Inclusion and Empowerment
- Civic Leadership Governance and Social Accountability
- Social Determinants of Disaster Risk Reduction

Social Inclusion and Empowerment

Annual Swabhiman Yatra/Dalit Garima Yatra was launched to mobilise and document testimonies on dalit atrocity, land alienation and women land rights.

A study was undertaken on management of common property resources in western Rajasthan

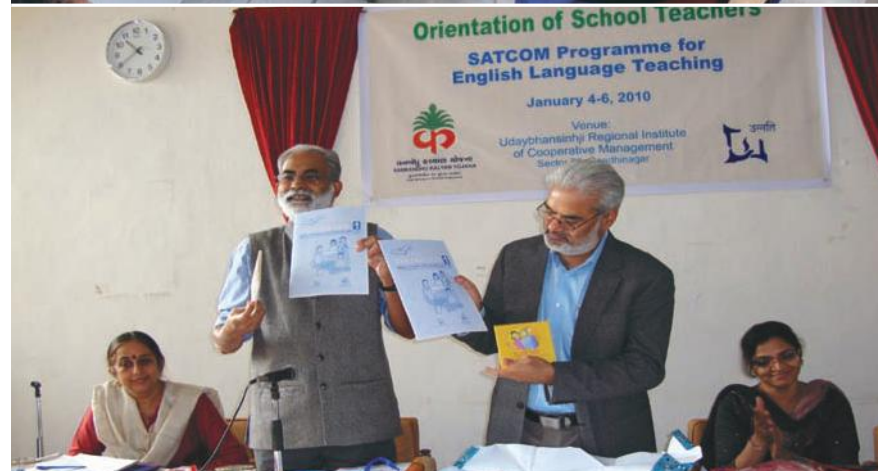
A quarterly bulletin - 'Dalit Update' was published highlighting dalit rights and entitlements

By 2009, 340 cases of discrimination at public places, 394 cases of atrocities, 147 cases of violence against dalit women, 76 cases of land rights were taken up

Workshops are organised for developing organisation level gender policies

In Ahmedabad, the 'The Access Resource Group' was developed to promote accessibility in built environment and regularly conducted access audit of public spaces

In collaboration with the Gujarat state tribal development department, SATCOM based English language enhancement programme was launched for std. VIII and IX in the schools of tribal areas of Gujarat. Learning packages were developed comprising of audio-visual classes and workbook lessons that were relayed from the SATCOM studio at Gandhinagar. More than 8000 students from 173 schools were covered.



Civic Leadership, Governance and Social Accountability

Right to Information Act, 2005 and Forest Right Act, 2006 brought the issues of social accountability to the centre stage - phase of rights, entitlement and promotion of transparency and accountability

Social accountability tools are piloted by conducting community based monitoring (CBM) and social audit

Worked with tribal development department of Govt. of Gujarat to prepare mechanisms to reach out to tribal communities on forest rights.

Officials and elected representatives from 25 districts are trained on Panchayati Raj through SATCOM in collaboration with SIRD.

Field level training centre developed in Bhachau, Kutch, Gujarat

Urban governance: oversight and advisory functions to JNNURM to promote community participation in urban planning

Capacity building for solid waste management continued for the municipalities

The citizen leaders of Ahmedabad and Sabarkantha published a monthly bulletin called 'LokVacha' (People's Voice) to support their local mobilization and action.



Social Determinants of Disaster Risk Reduction

Unexpected floods in Barmer, Rajasthan: Deriving experiences for Kutch on owner driven reconstruction and use of environment friendly building materials, construction of interim shelter was promoted for the affected population

Owner Driven Reconstruction Collaborative (ODRC) was formed to promote housing programme in post-disaster reconstruction and social housing programmes.

Development of horti-pasture was piloted for livelihood promotion in western Rajasthan. Later it was adopted by Rajasthan government under 'Apna Khet Apna Kaam' in MGNREGA

UNNATI stepped out of Gujarat and Rajasthan, to assist in disaster risk reduction initiatives during Ghagra river floods in Bahraich, UP and reconstruction during Kosi river floods in Bihar.



2011-2015: Phase of Social Accountability and Collaboration with Government

Social Inclusion and Empowerment

As a part of mainstreaming the issues of persons with disabilities, a collaborative initiative was undertaken to develop accessible tools and techniques for organisational development. 8 Disabled Persons Organisations (DPOs) participated in the process.

UNNATI representatives participated in the 1st CBR World Congress was held at Agra in 2012

SATCOM based English language enhancement programme continued for children in the tribal areas

Four sets of books on History of Women's Movement was developed and published in Gujarati and Hindi in collaboration with Sahiyar

Legal support to fight cases of Dalit atrocities and discrimination continued. Public hearing are organised on serious and prolonged cases of Dalit atrocities. A 'fact finding' methodology was developed to support for filing cases of Dalit atrocities.

A large programme on improving access to public programmes reaching the last mile was initiated.



Governance and Social Accountability

UNNATI was invited by Gujarat Government to facilitate social audit in MGNREGA in the entire state for developing an institutional mechanism and operational guidelines. With government collaboration an independent Social Audit Unit (SAU) for MGNREGA was set-up in UNNATI. The SAU worked in close coordination with the state, district and taluka level administration. District Level Monitors (DLMs) were appointed in each district for the oversight of the social audit process and building the capacity of the social audit facilitators (Taluka Resource Group) and Village Vigilance and Monitoring Committee (VVMC) who finally conducted the social audit in the Gram Sabha.

Then Union Minister, Rural Development, Jairam Ramesh appreciated and acknowledged independent social audit mechanism adopted by GoG in MGNREGA, facilitated by UNNATI.



Martha Farrell, who was one of the desirous persons in the formation of UNNATI as a society succumbed to terrorist attack in Kabul on May 13, 2015 while conducting a training program on mainstreaming gender. We are deeply saddened and we miss her.



Disaster Risk Reduction

DRR expanded in Rajasthan: Veterinary camps for immunization of small cattle; expanded horti-pastoral practices and linked with MGNREGA; capacity building of women health volunteers as preparedness measures for drought and other disasters; risk transfer through health, medical and life insurance; promotion of disaster safe construction technology. Expanded work on drought mitigation.

Extended technical expertise to GSDMA on DRR planning framework and supported GIDM in capacity building on DRR and disaster governance.

Promoting school safety and safe housing. A decade after the earthquake in Gujarat, the knowhow of disaster safe construction and its application was fading away and there was a need to revisit the concern of seismic safety, especially in the schools.

Inclusion of housing safety features in Indira Awas Yojana (IAY). A collaborative study was undertaken with 7 civil society organisations to understand IAY housing delivery processes in earthquake, flood, cyclone, landslide and Tsunami disaster-prone districts across various locations (Gujarat, Odisha, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pradesh).

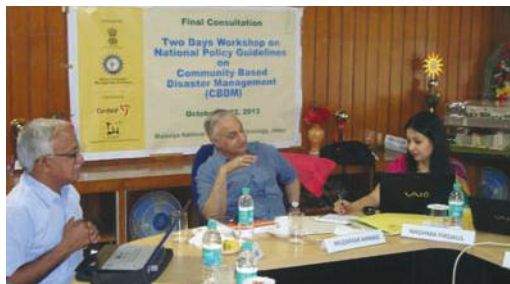
Reactivation of the Inter-Agency Coordination in Gujarat

UNNATI responded to a request of the district authorities of Kokrajhar district of Assam for developing a framework to support the return of families after the civil conflict which had led to forced ousting of thousands of households. Besides this, with people's participation and peace building interventions temporary school buildings, wooden bridges were constructed to bring normalcy in the area.

Industrial Hazard Management Plan for Vatva Industrial Estate prepared as a part of action research project supported by GIDM. A framework for industrial hazard management plan in chemical industrial zone/estate developed.

In both Gujarat and Rajasthan, direct intervention on improving quality of learning and school governance was initiated. Citizen Leaders, SMC members and PRI representatives trained on different aspects of school

education- RTE Act, Roles and responsibility, School Development Plan (SDP), Learning Audits etc. Special focus is given to train them on their roles in enrolment and retention.



2016-2020: Strengthening partnership for impactful interventions

In this phase, we have been reporting our programs focussing on projects.

1. Access to information on public programs was supported by European Union during 2014-2018. Information on public programmes as well as improved access to public services was enabled to more than 52,000 households in 64 panchayats covering two blocks each in Sabarkantha, Gujarat and Badmer, Rajasthan. This was enabled by 506 community citizen leaders. Information disclosure on basic programmes like health, education, anganwadis, etc. was disclosed in all panchayats using proactive disclosure provisions under the RTI Act, 2005. At the programme delivery level, a protocol for conducting disability camps was developed for the Gujarat and Rajasthan. The IT enabled mechanisms in pension programmes, National Food Security Act (NFSA) and Palanhar (Foster Care) is improved with joint efforts of CSOs, activists and representations before Government of Rajasthan. The framework of Community Based Monitoring (CBM), to identify programme delivery and quality related issues and subsequent corrective actions by government and citizens have been demonstrated which is being replicated by other CSOs.

The strategies, outcome and impact of all the 14 projects supported by European Union under 'Access to Information on Public Programmes' was documented and shared in a national consultation for replication and mainstreaming.

2. Model Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDP) are developed with gram panchayats (GP) ensuring peoples participation, inclusion of major development sectors with cost and no cost activities. UNNATI facilitated the PRIs in preparing the same in seven districts of Gujarat. These plans have also taken into account the disaster risk reduction component - risk informed development plans. Partnership have been developed with Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management (GIDM) in developing framework for risk informed GPDP for scaling up. A state level conference on the scope, challenges and way forward for GPDP was also held in collaboration with the Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj in Gujarat. The conference was organised in collaboration with the State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD) and Unicef - Gujarat.



3. In the context of improving quality of elementary education and strengthening school governance, UNNATI has been working in Bhachau block of Kutch district in Gujarat and Sindhri block in Badmer district in Rajasthan. It aims to strengthen school governance and improve quality of education. As families make distressed migration, ensuring continued presence of the students in the school has been a challenge. School governance is strengthened to create local mechanisms to ensure that all children of age group 6-14 years attend school for the entire academic year. Continued interaction and focus group discussions with teachers, parents, SMC members and guardians are organised to track potential migrant children. Citizen Educators are involved in identification of potential migrant children resulted in improving retention rate. Arrangements have been made for after school learning classes through learning resource centre (LRC) and learning enrichment programme (LEP) at the community level. This is being supported by American India Foundation.

4. To ensure food security and strengthening resilience against drought among the excluded community in Badmer district of Rajasthan a project is being implemented with the support of BMZ and Malteser International. It is part of global drive to eradicate hunger. It is promoting improved agricultural practices involving more than 1000 Dalit women farmers. It also focuses on improving access to public health, nutrition and food security of government programs.

5. For strengthening the voices of the marginalised for assertion of entitlements, a platform of social accountability practioners is being developed. It aims to equip citizen leaders, CBOs and NGOs to practice community based monitoring, social audit, jan-sunvai, collect testimonies of people who have been delayed and denied their rights and entitlements and use IT enabled mechanism for verification of public programmes. The overall effort is to build a culture of downward accountability of public programmes. Field based pilots are undertaken to sharpen the methods and tools used for social accountability. Regular training and education materials are also prepared based on the field practice. This programme is supported by National Foundation for India (NFI).



6. UNNATI was involved in the preparation of National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP) and its subsequent revision by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). The plan document was released in 2016 and subsequently revised in November 2019. It is a proud engagement for UNNATI to get involved at the national level in drafting of such an important plan document.

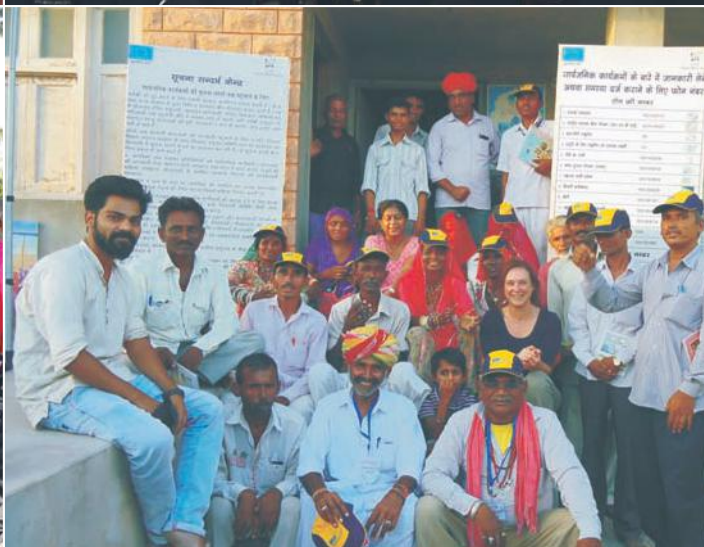
7. In the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) 2016 held in New Delhi, in collaboration with SEEDS and UNNATI pre-events were organised.

8. In Gujarat, Anand district has been identified as multi hazard district and has witnessed severe flood situation in 14 villages. District authorities invited UNNATI to support for improving the District Disaster Management Plan (DDMP). In 2018 the Anand District Authorities, endorsed for implementation the updated DDMP.

9. As part of ODRC, UNNATI is working in Nepal on socio-technical facilitation for owner-driven housing reconstruction in Government of India (GoI) supported programme covering construction of seismic safe 26,912 houses in Gorkha district. This is supported by the UNDP, Nepal under the GoI project.

10. To enhance community action, particularly with the participation of women groups (jal-saheli group) and gram panchayats, governance on issues of water and climate change is being addressed in 10 desert districts of western Rajasthan. A climate change school (Prakruti Pathshala) has also been started as part of community based climate change education and action. This project is supported by European Union and the duration is from 2018 to 2023.





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UNNATI
Organisation for Development Education

www.unnati.org

VISION

Towards an inclusive and democratic society.

MISSION

Promote social inclusion and democratic governance so that the vulnerable sections of our society, particularly the dalits, tribals, women and persons with disabilities are empowered to effectively and decisively participate in mainstream development and the decision-making process.

WHAT WE DO

Capacity development of vulnerable communities and their institutions for demanding entitlements and enforce accountability.

Develop and innovative participatory methods, tools and techniques to make social development programs implantation simple, inclusive, transparent and accountable. Influence and facilitate program and policy formulation of the government by collaboration and representation of people's voices and testimonies.