UNNATI
Thematic Interventions:

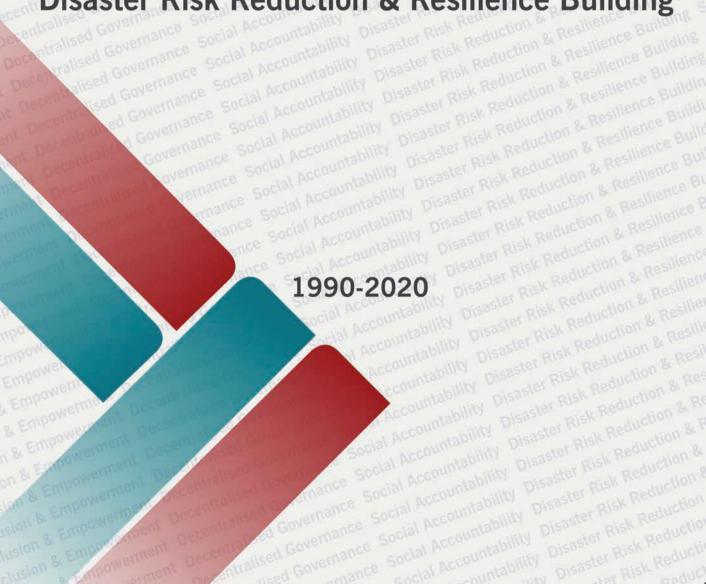**Social Inclusion & Empowerment**
Decentralised Governance
Social Accountability
Disaster Risk Reduction & Resilience Building

1990-2020

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 for the government by collaboration and representation of people's voices and testimonies.

Foreword

In the last 30 years, UNNATI has derived its relevance by engaging in the issues affecting the most marginalised and vulnerable communities. The community and grass root partners have been our inspiration and source of strength. Besides the compelling field level issues, adherence to people's participation, assertion for rights and entitlements, social inclusion and accountability provided the direction and perspective to our programs and work.

From a capacity development organisation to grow and develop as an issue based strategic institution has been a challenging journey. In the current projects and programs we have been working at the grassroots level, building partnerships with Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and local organisations, and government. We have also been actively taking up policy issues. At the grass roots level, the effort is not on simple implementation by providing inputs. Government programs have all the necessary inputs for people to access basic services and social protection towards ending poverty. Our focus is on improving access to public programs, reaching the last mile by demand articulation, strengthening the voices of the community through social accountability and identification of procedural and policy-related bottlenecks. This approach has built the credibility of the organisation with diverse stakeholders.

UNNATI has been working closely with the government. The engagement in developing and operationalising social audit in MGNREGA in Gujarat was an opportunity to work closely with the government from the state department level to the district and block levels. In the field of Disaster Risk Reduction, we worked closely with the National Disaster Management Authority in the preparation and revision of the National Disaster Management Plan. There are many other occasions when UNNATI worked closely with the government and built up its credibility. Government authorities take cognisance of our field-level observations on issues related to program implementation and take prompt corrective measures. There have been several occasions where we have been invited to present different issues and have represented people's perspective and issues with the government. However, we are careful of not getting co-opted by the government and maintaining our autonomy.

Multi-stakeholder convening on different issues and developing clarity and the direction of interventions is one of our key strengths. It helps in building a common understanding through a consultative process. We also play a role in the voluntary sector in determining the role of CSOs on various issues like strengthening decentralised governance, social accountability including information disclosure, effective program implementation, policy formulation on gender, disability and disaster management. The convening role also helps in formulating joint action on various issues of denial of rights and entitlements.

The engagement of UNNATI with a wide range of stake-holders is another key strength and part of our identity. Our partnerships and collaborations range from community people, CSOs and networks, gram panchayats, urban local bodies, government departments and authorities, statutory bodies like information commission, UN agencies, international organisations, academia and the media. Our engagement with institutions of higher education help us in articulating our field experiences and perspectives. Collaboration with the academic

community helps and enables us to critically examine our program strategies, outcomes and impact. UNNATI engages with equal ease and comfort with all stake-holders, and this engagement brings new insight and strength to the program outcomes and impact. In our association with the Gujarat CSR Authority, there was many opportunities to closely know and interact with corporates and their CSR projects. Besides some educational engagement, so far there have been no formal long-term partnerships with the corporate houses.

Over the years, we have valued our partnerships and look forward to further strengthening these. The state or the government is the key development actor and we view our role as one that facilitates effective delivery and empowers people to demand and hold government accountable for non-delivery of services and irregularities. Many government programs have now adopted social accountability. The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) is now viewing social audit as part of all program audits. These developments open new widows to make our interventions more meaningful.

Throughout the history of the voluntary sector, the CSOs have been always subjected to 'Agni Pariksha' to repeatedly prove their credentials. Increasing number of statutory restrictions are constricting the spaces for CSOs. The changes in the immediate environment will not change our values and mission-based perspective. Our values, partnership spirit and ability to listen with care to people's voices at the grassroots level will lead us forward in the future. We are deeply grateful to all our partners for their support and for helping us achieve impact on the lives of the poor and vulnerable at all times.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the efforts of our colleagues, particularly Kirit Parmar, Swapni Shah and Aditi Sharan who have prepared this report by archiving our work over the last thirty years. Some of the initiatives may not have been documented because of lack of records. It is also time to express my deep and profound thanks to all colleagues, the General Body Members and the Executive Council Members of the Society since the inception who have shown their commitment and put in much hard work in building UNNATI into an institution with credibility and relevance.

We look forward to working in partnership with you in the future, adhering to our values and principles, and our focus on the rights and entitlements of the excluded and marginalised.

Binoy Acharya   February 2020

Contents

1 Social Inclusion & Empowerment

The unequal social arrangements riddled with hierarchy and prejudices, have excluded certain groups of people to such an extent that they have become invisible and do not figure in the mainstream of development. Deprivation due to social exclusion and discrimination is one of the main causes of poverty. All development programmes, be it on food security, drinking water, sanitation or health care, do not reach a large section of people who remain marginalised due to social isolation, exploitation and stigmatisation. When programmes fail to reach the excluded groups, it creates chronic poverty. Even when welfare services are targeted the issue of denial of rights is not addressed. UNNATI is committed to strengthening the 'voices' of the most marginalised groups, especially Dalits, women, and persons with disabilities and mainstreaming their issues in development. In Rajasthan and Gujarat, UNNATI facilitated the organising of the excluded groups and sensitised the wider development alliance and partners through educational programmes.

Collective Assertion on Entitlements and Basic Rights of the Dalits in the Thar Desert Region of Rajasthan

Caste-based discrimination is a major cause of the vulnerability of dalits and tribals in western Rajasthan. In villages in the remote areas of the Thar Desert, living conditions are harsh with repeated occurrence of drought. They face water, fodder and livelihood insecurity. These households also face problems in accessing the government's drought relief, health, veterinary, child care and other social security services.

As part of Support to Local Initiatives, in 1998 grassroots organisations in Jodhpur and Barmer district were supported to address the issues of dalit atrocity. Cases of dalit atrocities were documented and meetings are conducted with the traditional leaders called Mukhis of the Dalit community to broaden understanding over the issue. Social reform for eliminating harmful cultural practices became the starting agenda for mobilising the Dalits. After two years, social mobilisation and organising was taken up around the issues of discrimination in public places, atrocities by dominant forces and encroachment on land. In partnership with grassroots organisations and Dalit community leaders, field level interventions culminated in to a Dalit Rights Campaign (Dalit Adhikar Abhiyan). The Abhiyan as a platform for the Dalit movement and a large number of solidarity groups and individuals joined.

Dalit Resource Centres (DRCs) at the block level were formed for community education, mobilisation and direct action. DRCs provided legal support to the community to fight cases of atrocities and exploitation. DRCs provide information and legal guidance to victims of human rights violations, undertake advocacy and provide an identity for organising and networking. They performed 5 functions:

Collective Assertion against Discrimination in Public Places

Cases of discrimination in primary schools in the distribution of mid-day meal and the use of drinking water and the humiliation of dalit women while fetching water from public hand pumps and reservoirs are very common to which the dalit community drew the attention of the authorities as well as raised the issues in the gram sabha.

i.   Community level leadership and awareness building;
ii. Community level monitoring of discrimination;
iii. Facilitating community action against discrimi-nation, atrocities and control over common property resources;
iv. Extending information to access government programmes and
v.   Facilitating internal social reform.

Due to the effective functioning of the DRCs, there was a rise in the number of cases reported against discrimination at the village level. In 2006-07, there was a conscious effort to make DAA a democratised and decentralised movement. DAA became a membership based collective with 6985 members (3172 women) organised into 496 dalit groups in 248 villages which were then federated at the block level into 11 groups. A series of block-level leadership training programmes were organised focusing on the issues of dalit identity, articulation of dalit ideology, group functioning, organising process, planning on elimination of discrimination in both private and public spaces including at the point of delivery of public services.

The community process of engagement in access to justice

It includes community based fact finding, counselling of the victims to stand with courage to seek justice, and educating the witness on the social justice principles. Community leaders are informed about the case to support the victim and the family so that a sense of community solidarity is expressed. This process defeats any move to blame the victim.

Landmarks and Strategic Shifts (Initial 10 years)

1999	Study on Dalit Atrocity and first Dalit Sammelan articulated the agenda of internal social reforms as well as to combat external exploitative forces.
2000	Second Dalit Sammelan resolved to take the issue of social discrimination of dalits, particularly at schools, water points, panchayts and other public places as primary agenda. A detailed action plan from the community level to the district level was developed.
2000-01	Dalit Adhikar Abhiyan (DAA) emerged as an independent campaign. With trainings on mobilisation and legal literacy, movement took the step of advocating and increasing awareness on registering cases of atrocity
2001	First case was lodged against Dalit atrocity
2001-2002	Study on status of untouchability in Rajasthan as part of a national level study
2002-03	Evaluation recognised impact on discrimination at public places and services and highlighted the need to articulate Dalit ideology and strengthen women's leadership.
2003	Third Dalit Sammelan
2005-06	Evaluation stressed the need to make the campaign more broad-based and establish organic linkages
2006-07	Efforts for democratisation of DAA and community ownership of the fight for Dalit rights and justice
2006	Swabhiman Yatra conducted in the backdrop of caste polarisation and volatile situation became and effective instrument of pressurizing local police and judicial administration as well as bringing up the issue of discrimination and dignity up for open discussion.
2008	Workshop on fact finding in case of human rights violations
2008	Dalit Garima Yatra covered 88 villages of Western Rajasthan and reached to 15,000 people.

Fact finding and legal literacy to strengthen demand for justice

Legal literacy enables people with the necessary tools to fight discrimination and exploitation. Community leaders and panchayat representatives were trained on the basic constitutional framework and social justice laws. In order to strengthen the legal capacity of DAA: (i) A cadre of 25 paralegals were developed with support from Indian Institute of Paralegal Studies (IIPS), Ahmedabad and (ii) Networking and collaboration with 34 lawyers. Several block level meetings were facilitated with lawyers, media representatives, government officials, elected representatives of panchayats, MLAs and the Dalit leaders to build a wider solidarity group to support the struggle and legal processes.

Capacity building on fact finding in cases of human rights violations provided DAA with a potent tool that strengthened their demand for justice and developed credibility with the police and judicial system. An intensive fact-finding process enables case documentation that has no gaps before it is presented at the police station and court of law. Intensive case-based training on fact finding has strengthened the justice-seeking process and has had a positive impact on court judgments. Fact finding made a landmark contribution in 92 per cent of the cases resulting in conviction at the session court within a year.

Till 2009, 343 cases of discrimination and 349 cases of atrocities on Dalits were resolved including 50 cases pertaining to atrocities on Dalit women. 1187 acres of dalit land were released from forceful encroachments and 4418 households were linked to social security schemes run by government. From 2010, the DAA is functioning in an autonomously with people's support.

Consultation on Dalits and Land Ownership

Even after resettlement of land, the dalit community not able to exercise actual procession over the land. There is a strong correlation between encroachment over the land of Dalit members and atrocities. Participatory study on land alienation of dalits was conducted in 70 villages of three districts.

The study identified 830 cases out of which 285 cases were of land encroachment. 13 Dalit members gave their testimony in a multi-stakeholder consultation where representatives of the Legal Services Authority for Jodhpur district were also present.

During 2010 -11, two participatory studies were conducted to understand the status of caste-based discrimination in public places, its manifestation and impact. It also included the issue of land alienation of Dalits which is exploitatively pushed by the powerful caste elements. This has systematically denied the Dalits the rightful access to their own private land for generations. The findings of the study were shared in several Jan Sunvais.

The learnings on the social and legal tools acquired over the course of the programme have been put together in a primer for Dalit human rights activists, 'Jisme Har Insaan Ko Insaan Banaya Jaye'. It provides an understanding of Dalit human rights, justice mechanism in India, fact-finding process and effective use of the judicial system. After 14 years of joint action on organising and mobilizing on issues related to Dalit rights in western Rajasthan, now it is the strategy of UNNATI to take up Dalit issues under all projects and programmes.

Fact finding

Fact finding does not require technical or legal enquiry. It does not have a legal basis. It provides direction for systematic formal investigation through local activists/leaders. The process creates and systemizes information on the case so that vested interest groups supporting the perpetrator cannot dare to put hindrances in the process of formal investigation. It is based on interviews of various actors and collection and analysis of relevant information around the case. The steps followed in fact finding are as follows:

1. Formation of a fact-finding team and understanding the case in detail and dividing the responsibilities among members for data collection.
2. Visual assessment and mapping of the incident, place and situation.
3. Interview of the family members and neighbours of the victim. Interview of the neighbours and family members of the accused can provide information which can change the direction of the case.
4. Collection and analysis of other relevant documents like First Information Report, Medical Investigation Report, Post-Mortem Report, Chemical Investigation Report, Correspondence, the media.
5. Preparing a fact-finding report which has complete information stating violation of human rights and legal provisions.
6. Management of the complete fact-finding report by including all relevant information and details in an organized manner.

Mainstreaming Disability

Development of Perspective among Stakeholders (2001 - 2008)

The 'social model' approach to mainstreaming disability acknowledges that it is the barriers in the environment – social, cultural, attitudinal, economic, political and physical – that hinder the participation of persons with disabilities leading to exclusion. Prior to these understanding, persons with disabilities were either objects of charity as guided by the charity or welfare approach. The persons with disability are looked upon as patients to be treated as directed by the medical model wherein the impairment or deformity is to be cured. Drawing inspiration from the social model, an action research was conducted from 2001–2005 with focus on enhancing engagement of civil society for mainstreaming disability in the development process in Gujarat. Several stakeholders – developmental organisations, rehabilitation institutions, builders, architects, designers, government officials and persons with disabilities – were sensitised and oriented for inclusion and creating a barrier free environment for all through public awareness and popular educational material.

During 2004-05, several efforts were made for awareness building on the legal provisions and mechanisms for realisation of the rights of persons with disabilities, with special focus on Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation), Act 1995.

Several user friendly materials for sensitisation, awareness building and vernacular education were created for use by diverse stakeholders. UNNATI's experience of facilitating civic response to mainstreaming disability was documented and published. It shared learning and suggestions for CSOs desirous of integrating disability in their work and highlighted the role of civil society in promoting the inclusion of persons with disabilities. As part of the core team of DIPECHO project implemented by Handicap International (HI), support was provided for preparation of a training manual on Mainstreaming Disability in Disaster Risk Reduction for managers and field practitioners.

Promoting civic engagement for enhancing opportunities for persons with disabilities (2009 – 2012)

UNNATI continued to network, collaborate and engage with diverse stakeholders to help build a co-ordinated and sustained response to mainstream disability. Mainstream development organisations were supported to identify persons with disabilities and include them in their ongoing programmes. Inputs and information were provided so as to enable them to enhance linkages and referrals, especially for education, employment, certification and access to government schemes.

During 2010-11, four organisations working with children with intellectual/ multiple disabilities were provided mentoring and support for building the capacity of special educators for developing individual treatment plans for children, classroom structuring and management, activity scheduling, use of appropriate functional activities, making and using teaching-learning materials, parent counselling and documenting processes and outcomes. Support for clinical assessments and need-based technical services were provided to enhance the quality of services to children with disabilities. Information on government schemes was shared with parents to help in increasing children's access to health insurance, bus pass, disability certificates and identity cards.

The path breaking United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) was ratified by India in 2008. This opened the doors for inclusion of persons with disabilities with them at the helm of all decision making processes of all matters concerning their lives. Case studies of existing inclusive practices in the field of education and employment were documented. The learning derived from these case studies were debated and discussed in State and district level seminars with government officials, NGOs, rehabilitation institutions and academia for wider learning, up-scaling and improvising practices in the light of the new Convention. Multi stakeholder consultation was organised on July 8, 2011 to discuss the provisions of the UNCRPD and the draft disability bill in which persons with disabilities, government functionaries, educational institutions, business bodies and NGOs participated.

**Multi Stakeholder Initiative to Promote Barrier-Free Environment –
The Access Group (TAG - 2004)**

The issue of creation of a barrier-free environment for effective participation of persons with temporary and permanent disabilities in civic activities is a neglected area. In March 2003, in collaboration with the Blind People's Association (BPA) and Handicap International (HI), a public meeting was organised in Ahmedabad to create awareness on accessibility or barrier-free environment. This raised interest on the issue among engineers, architects, planners and officials of the municipal corporations. During the year, a series of workshops on barrier-free environment were organised in collaboration with Samarthya, a New Delhi-based resource group on accessibility. The participants included engineers, architects, town planners, academia, NGOs and representatives from the service and entertainment industry.

The workshops led to the formation of a voluntary multi-disciplinary group called The Access Group (TAG) in 2004. The group conducted workshops, conducted access audits of public buildings and suggested recommendations to create barrier-free spaces. TAG undertook advocacy to include the feature of Universal Design in the draft General Development Control Regulations (GDCR) and building bye-laws for building construction and demonstrated accessible built-in- environment. Several technical trainings were also organised for the capacity building of the TAG.

Training on UNCRPD provisions and inclusive practices was organised for grassroots organisations in Gujarat during November 29 – December 1, 2011. Disability Advocacy Group (DAG), a newly formed Disabled People's Organisations (DPO) in Gujarat was supported in documenting 17 practices in education and employment. These were shared in two district level multi-stakeholder consultations during April 7 and 21, 2012 attended by the academia, NGOs, persons with disabilities and senior government officials. The district level consultations emphasised the need for strengthening DPOs for strong demand articulation. The consultations highlighted the need for orientation of development NGOs and media on disability issues. It called for wider public participation for implementation of Scheme for Persons with Disabilities Act (SIPDA) that has provision for making all government buildings barrier free. Popularising technical expertise and universal design would facilitate creation of barrier-free built environment on a wider scale. There is also a need to provide legal support to the Commissioner, Disability to redress the issues of persons with disabilities. The district consultations came up with the idea of preparation of a Citizen's Report on the status of disability in Gujarat.

UNNATI actively engaged in the country wide debate and advocacy for a new law on disability – Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill – with government departments and disabled persons organisation (DPOs) and provided feedback/ suggestions to the Parliamentary Standing Committee so that the New Law is in consonance with the CRPD. The feedback focused on the aspects related to social protection and social security needs of persons with disabilities. In 2011-12, handbooks on 'Barrier free Educational Institutions' and 'Universal Signage and Way Finding: Design Guidelines' were prepared for awareness building on barrier-free environment.

Developing an Inclusive Pedagogy for Organisational Development (2012-14)

As part of capacity building of DPOs, an action research was undertaken in partnership with 8 DPOs and its supporting NGOs in the country – West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu from October 2012 – April 2014. The purpose was to develop accessible

Consultative Meetings and Other Activities

The 1st CBR World Congress was held at Agra during November 26-28, 2012 to promote community based rehabilitation (CBR) as a global strategy to realise the UNCRPD. It was attended by over 1200 participants from 80 countries. UNNATI made presentation on 'Making Inclusion Work: Lessons from the Field' at the concurrent session on CBR Approaches and Practices.

A presentation on inclusive methods and tools for facilitation of problem analysis and organisational development process was made at the 2nd Asia Pacific Conference of the International Council for Education of the Visually Impaired and Deaf Blind International (ICEVI-DBI) during April 5-7, 2013 at Ahmedabad.

A presentation on the Rights of Children with Disabilities was made during April 5-7, 2013 at a National Seminar on Making Child Rights a Reality.

A paper was presented on Disability and Disasters at the 10th Annual Conference of Network of Asia Pacific Schools and Institutes of Public Administration and Governance (NAPSIPAG), organised by the Centre for the Study of Law and Governance, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

A draft policy note was submitted to the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of Gujarat, for consideration and adaptation.

tools that could be used by persons with visual impairment, hearing impaired and locomotor disabilities to undertake their own situation analysis, capacity assessment and develop the vision and mission of their DPO for effective institution building in the changing perspective. As an outcome of this process wherein 24 trainings were organised (three trainings for each DPO), a toolkit on methods and tools for conducting situation analysis and capacity assessment by DPOs in India has been made. It is titled, 'Touch and Feel: See and Absorb'. The document is available in accessible formats – DAISY and EPUB file formats.

In 2014, UNNATI as part of All India Disability Alliance (AIDA) participated in consultations to provide recommendations to the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill 2014 which was considered regressive and not in line with CRPD by Disability Groups.

To give voice to the concerns and strategies to be adopted for mainstreaming women with disabilities UNNATI is part of the Network of Women with disabilities in India informally formed when the Justice Verma Committee was constituted to reformulate criminal procedures in cases of acts of violence and sexual harassment against women in 2013. Under the aegis of this network of women with disabilities, feedback was provided from the perspective of women with disabilities like assistance / support of a sign language interpreter for women with hearing impairment to give their testimonies and provision of information on registering complaints etc. in accessible formats, provision of a human guide where required and others.

2014 onwards, based on field learnings, efforts have been made to advocate with Governments of Gujarat and Rajasthan on aspects of capacity building on early identification of disability, developing a protocol for certification of persons with disabilities and simplifying procedures and grievance redressal mechanisms for improving access to public programs for persons with disabilities.

Mainstreaming Gender

The program aimed towards introducing and sensitising gender related systemic as well as attitudinal changes and to develop locally relevant procedures and guidelines within the organisation, at the programmatic level and at the level of civil society institutions. Initiatives were taken to build capacities of organisations and develop resource materials.

UNNATI was one of the partners in the national campaign to promote citizens action to combat violence against women. Prior to the year a series of training programs were organised for DANIDA supported government projects on mainstreaming gender in the program planning and implementation. This provided learning on gender dimensions in household and community level across India. In 2004, UNNATI was invited by the Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Gujarat, in drafting the State Gender Policy – Nari Gaurav Niti in a consultative manner.

Research and Capacity Building Efforts for Enabling Mainstreaming

2002-03	Organisational gender audit carried out by an external facilitator. Recommendations helped to institutionalise gender equity systems and procedures.
2003	Gender Sensitivity and Equity Committee functional in UNNATI
2004-05	To mainstream gender in development programmes, a thematic focal point was created in UNNATI. An organisational 'Gender Policy' was formulated and approved by the Executive Committee. Gender policies developed for 4 organisations in Rajasthan after gender audits.
2004	ToT on gender mainstreaming for government officials, NGO representatives and independent resource persons in collaboration with the Gender Resource Centre (GRC) of the Women and Child Development Department (GOG) and United Nations Population

	Fund (UNFPA). The aim was to create a cadre of resource persons at the district level to provide training support to various development programmes.
2005-06	Facilitated gender audits within organisations and assisted partners to formulate and articulate their gender policies
2006-07	Capacity building on Gender Responsive Budgeting and started collating gender desegregated data at the field level
2006-08	Research on 'Making Space: An Enquiry into Women's Participation in Local Politics in Rajasthan' examined the relevance of decentralisation for women. It also examined the influence of caste and tribe on women in the public sphere and the role of family in dislocating them as leaders or supporting them.
2007-08	Study on women and land ownership
2008-09	Separate team nominated from within the organisation to steer gender related activities and build internal capacity and provide support to partner organisations on request.
2013-14	The new Prevention of Sexual Harassment Act and Amendment in the Criminal Procedure Code was discussed in Unnati and The Complaints Committee was reformulated.

To develop understanding on history of women's movement and how the gender issues are articulated and policies and rules are framed, UNNATI along with Sahiyar – Stree Sangathan published four volume popular readings in Hindi and Gujarati. A training manual was developed on Gender Awareness and Sensitivity Applications deriving the learning from various trainings. Till recent time UNNATI is being invited to conduct gender sensitisation training programs. In 2020, gender sensitisation program was conducted for the entire non-teaching staff of IIM Ahmedabad.

Since inception, UNNATI has been addressing gender issues in programmes, at the organisational level and at the policy level. It has been supporting NGOs and CBOs on gender mainstreaming and formulation of gender policies and conducting gender audits of their organisations. At the State level, it has collaborated with the Gender Resource Centre, Gujarat - an autonomous centre under the Department of Women and Child Development in policy formulation, developing indicators to monitor gender budgeting processes and developing a cadre of gender trainers to provide support for mainstreaming gender in programmes at the district level.

Since 2010, all work around access to justice and rights for Dalits and Risk Adaptation and Community Resilience in western Rajasthan have focused on the participation and leadership of women as agents of change. Adolescent girls have also been focused for interventions for nutrition security, WASH and life skills development.

Strengthening School Governance: Building a base for participation of marginalised communities

In the tribal areas of Gujarat, the middle school children do not get adequate access to learn English language. In the year 2009, the Secretary, Tribal Development in one of the interactions expressed the concern and suggested to reach out to the students using Satellite communication (SATCOM). Students were exposed to quality reading of text books, conversations and comprehension. In collaboration with the Gujarat State Tribal Development Department UNNATI developed pre-recorded audio-visuals (26 sessions as bridge course and 50 sessions for the students entering Std. VIII). The pre-recorded classes are telecasted from the government SATCOM studio (BASAG). The hardware (TV and reception support was ensured by the Department). The students are provided three workbooks for home work. The teachers are also oriented to support the students to learn from the new teaching methods. The programme was monitored through self-rating, visit during the programme relay, phone calls made and feedback sent by schools through mail and phone. The monitoring also included assessing the viewership status, involvement of the teachers and students, status of workbook completion, infrastructure status and gauge issues impacting the programme implementation and impact. 234 schools in tribal areas were covered. Viewing the outcome, the Department asked UNNATI to prepare a similar program for Std.IX. After development and operating of the SATCOM based program for four years, it was handed over to the government for use in their own program.

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 creates local mechanisms to ensure that all children of age group 6-14 years attend school for the entire academic year and to create an environment in the area that promotes

education and encourages children to continue schooling. Continued interaction and focus group discussions with teachers, parents, SMC members and guardians help in tracking potential migrant children. Citizen Educators involvement in identification of potential migrant children resulted in improving retention rate of children through enrolment and arrangements for after school learning classes methods. Further, community led learning audit in schools helped to understand the class appropriate learning level and the learning needs of children as per their capacity and hold teachers accountable to improve the learning level.

Citizen Leaders, SMC members and PRI representatives are 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. Involvement of women members in the process was the key focus in improving functioning of the schools and Anganwadi centres. Women are encouraged to participate in Gram Sabha to put forth issues. It also addressed the issue of lack of parents' contribution/ participation in the functioning of schools through conduct of meeting displaying the agenda and date of meetings. The SMCs strengthening efforts are done through reengineering of SMC federation.

Community engagement has greatly improved the learning level and management of school in all intervened villages. SMC conduct regular meeting and has been instrumental in providing improved amenities for students- toilets, clean drinking water, celebrating national importance days, liaison with government officials, and regularity of teachers. Special efforts were made to help children observe the World Environment Day, Independence day, Teachers' Day, Gandhi Jayanti, Global Hand Wash Day, Bal Diwas and Samvidhan Diwas in the schools in which parents and other community members display active participation. These served as forums of engagement of communities with the schools. A snakes and ladders game has been developed to explain the provisions of the Right to Education Act and it has been used extensively in all trainings, events and community meetings.

Both school governance and improved pedagogy are important for improving quality of education. To provide an enabling learning environment to the children after school, mechanisms are developed in the form of Learning Resource Centre (LRC) and Learning Enrichment Programme (LEP). LEP has been designed as a supportive out-of-school programme for students to help them to grasp basic concepts through interactive teaching-learning pedagogy. It bridges the learning deficits further reducing the drop-outs. LRC compliments to the LEP by acting as a resource centre which is equipped with teaching learning materials that helps children to grow mentally and physically. LRCs are managed by the community people and have active participation in conducting several learning activities.

The journey of working with children of marginalized communities is part of our initiative on social inclusion.

2 Strengthening Decentralised Governance in Rural and Urban Areas

State institutions are too remote from the daily realities of the poor. Decentralised and democratic governance can effectively respond to the needs and aspirations of the local communities. Improved local governance ensures better access of the poor to basic services and in the long run leads to poverty reduction. The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment provided the opportunity for representation of Dalits, tribals and women who were earlier excluded from the governing structures. UNNATI was one of the first few institutions that worked on the capacity building of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).

Strengthening PRIs

The intervention had several innovative features to strengthen PRIs and people's participation over an election cycle. The campaign activities were usually conducted in collaboration with CSOs across the state for the widest possible coverage. In the initial years, UNNATI was one of the CSO partners working under a joint program initiated by PRIA, New Delhi covering large number of states.

1. **Pre-election Voters' Awareness Campaign (PEVAC)** - It is a non-political initiative to address the issues of elimination of dummy candidates and promote an atmosphere for conducting fair and free elections using a variety of communication methods.

2. **Trainings for newly elected representatives**, especially the Dalit and women representatives who were often elected for the first time – The orientation was usually undertaken in a campaign mode and called 'Panchayati Raj Jagrukta Abhiyan' (PRJA). They covered the important features and relevance of the Constitutional Amendments and the State Acts, roles and

responsibilities, mechanisms of conducting panchayat meetings and gram sabhas and participatory planning and budgeting. Later associations of women elected representatives were promoted for peer learning and discussions on issues particular to them.

Prior to the panchayat elections held in January-February 2010 in Rajasthan, UNNATI worked closely with SIRD-IGPRS for preparing the training material for capacity building of newly elected panchayat representatives. In collaboration with IGNOU a set of training materials was also prepared. A bulletin in Hindi was published in collaboration with SIRD-IGPRS for the continuous education of the PRI representatives. It was disseminated among all the panchayats in Rajasthan. The Chief Minister of Rajasthan took note of this initiative. Panchayat Jagat in Gujarati and Swaraj in Hindi bulletins were regularly published and disseminated for the continuous education of panchayat representatives. During 2011-12, a 'Compendium of Training Resources for Capacity Building of Panchayati Raj Institutions' was prepared in English and Gujarati as an assignment of SIRD, Gujarat, under the Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF).

Activating Social Justice Committees

SJCs are mandatory in all 3 tiers of panchayats to safeguard the interests and rights of the dalits and tribals. It was found that were either not formed or were only on paper. In order to invoke the principles of social justice and ensure its practice by the PRIs, drive for their activation was initiated resulting in informal federations at the taluka and sub-taluka levels and finally at the State. The federations took up issues of discrimination against dalits and adivasis, allocation of housing and other government programmes.

3. **Gramsabha Mobilisation** – Gramsabhas consisting of all adult members of the panchayat are provided the powers to make important decisions especially selection of beneficiaries of public programmes and demand accountability from the panchayat. However, its meetings never happened as mandated and drives were undertaken to ensure the quorum in gram sabhas and increase the participation of women and dalits. In 2006-07, an integrated communication

package was developed for mobilising citizen participation in the ward sabhas and gram sabhas in Rajasthan and Gujarat consisting of calendars, posters, stickers and danglers with relevant graphic content. The initiative taken for gramsabha mobilisation is still being carried out.

4. **Panchayat Resource Center at block level** – The primary aim was to provide citizens and elected representatives access to timely and relevant information on government decisions and public programs. They also provided hand-holding support to panchayats to undertake people oriented planning and development and discharge everyday activities in a transparent and accountable manner. Support was especially provided to the women and dalit representatives as they also needed to establish their legitimacy. This was an innovative experiment to develop a sustainable instrument for capacity building of PRIs so that they could function as an effective governing structure, ensure responsive service delivery and democratic accountability. The key activities of the PRCs were: (i) providing relevant information on government, legislative enactments, rules, procedures and best practices; (ii) extend advise and counselling services to Dalit and women representatives whose leadership has been unduly de-legitimised; (iii) facilitating capacity building of PRI representatives, (iv) facilitate the process of strengthening gramsabhas and build public accountability by involving concerned citizens and other local organisations and (v) provide planning support by conducting workshops and practical exposure.

The concept of PRC later found an echo in a policy document on Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) or National Capacity Building Framework (NCBF). The Government of Rajasthan found the PRC an effective instrumentality of capacity building and tried to integrate the concept in some of the major programmes of Rural Development Department.

5. **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. Each episode was followed by a 45 minute Telephone Help Line service to answer the questions posed by the listeners. Around 50 letters and 20 telephone calls were received per episode. Through the Telephone Help Line and letters, village-level issues were registered which would not have been otherwise noticed. All the issues were communicated to relevant authorities for resolution. The queries raised through the help line as well as letters were documented as a question bank. In Gujarat, three regional workshops were held to directly receive feedback from the listeners. An impact study was conducted by PRIA and it found a wide outreach for the radio programme.

6. The **SATCOM based initiative on capacity building** of PRI representatives in Gujarat (2005-07) was appreciated and acknowledged by the government and other organisations committed to capacity building. A set of 6 two day training modules were developed in collaboration with SIRD. 76 government officials were trained on the construct of good governance and on the functioning and financing of panchayats. They then facilitated discussions at the 38 centers when sessions were broadcasted through SATCOM. The trainings covered more than 2000 elected representatives from 25 districts of Gujarat.

2005-06 onwards, consistent efforts were made to promote networks of citizen leaders to further civic education and create an enabling environment for effective democratic decentralised governance. Efforts included citizen education on democratic values and engendering women's agenda in the gram sabhas and the ward sabhas. Based on experiences of promoting civic leadership in governance framework TOTs are conducted every year since 2006.

7. **Gram Panchayat Coordination Committee (GPCC)** – In Gujarat, an initiative has been taken to promote convergence of the various services provided within a Gram Panchayat. The Gram Panchayat Coordination Committee comprises of the members of the PRI, the revenue officer and representatives of all the service providers including teachers, anganwadi workers, asha workers, members of village level committees, members of people's collectives, representative of block officials and other stakeholders. They meet after the process of Community Based Monitoring is completed, to share its findings and discuss solutions or action points to address the issues.

8. **Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDP)** – With an attempt to create exemplars of how PRIs can make a perspective Gram Panchayat Development Plan (ensuring the inclusion of major sectors, cost and no cost activities, for both economic and social development of the community), UNNATI facilitated the PRIs in preparing the same in 7 districts of Gujarat. This initiative is taken for a model building on Risk Informed Development Plans. In this regard, support is also being provided to the Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management (GIDM) 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, State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD) and Unicef, Gujarat was successfully done.

UNNATI has played an educative role in simplifying Acts, policies and Government Orders and generating a popular debate and awareness around them. Some of them are:

1. After PESA, the Gujarat Government Amendment to Act happened in December 1997 and campaigns using diverse mechanisms were conducted in 1998 to popularise the spirit of tribal governance especially in the management of natural resources and local conflict resolution;

2. Interim report (1998) of Government of Gujarat on State Finance commission;

3. Government Resolution (GR) decontrolling the pastureland from the ownership of panchayats for commercial purposes;

4. Study on women PRI members (1998, Gujarat) – highlighted delegitimizing forces that come in the way of elected women representatives;

5. Study on Panchayat Finance (released in 2000-2001, Gujarat and Rajasthan) was part of national study by PRIA;

6. Status of PRIs in Gujarat and Rajasthan (1999-2000) – It was made after several rounds of consultations with PRI members, NGOs and important citizens. It covered profile of elected representatives, mobilisation and utilisation of resources, gram sabha and legitimacy of the dalit and women leaders along with recommendations on strengthening PRIs;

7. Research on Status of Devolution of Primary Education in Gujarat and Rajasthan (2001-2002);

8. The new Ministry of Panchayati Raj provided renewed thrust to the devolution process. The seven round table conferences organised by the Hon'ble Minister inviting the State governments arrived at important resolutions. In order to arrive at the Gujarat State level follow up action plan of the round tables, a meeting was convened (February 7, 2005) in the presence of the Minister of Panchayati Raj (GOG), Additional Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj (GOI), Principal Secretary and Commissioner, Department of Panchayati Raj (GOG), NGO representatives and panchayat representatives;

9. Study on Activity Mapping and Decentralised Planning in Gujarat (2012-13).

Strengthening ULBs

In most small towns, there was problem of infrastructure and there was no vision or strategy for future development. UNNATI's Work on urban governance was initiated in 1998 in Gujarat and expanded to Rajasthan in 2000. Primary focus was to develop a methodology/ systematic approach for strengthening governance in small and medium towns to enable the poor and marginalised sections of urban society to demand and the municipalities to develop the capacity to design and execute development programmes with the perspective of equity and social justice. Interventions took the form of action research with the purpose of deriving maximum learning. Pilot initiatives in small pockets helped to develop methodologies and learning.

Multi-stakeholder consultations, participatory monitoring of basic services (report cards that reveal the condition of services - to monitor basic services like water supply, sewerage, garbage collection, roads and street lights - and its availability in a comparative manner), collective visioning about the future and participatory analysis of town planning are some of the key activities undertaken in this program. Development plans of the towns often neglect the needs of the poor people nature and network of informal economic activities. Alternative plans were developed with people's participation and they were facilitated to effectively hold dialogue with the municipality on issues like land use restriction, infrastructure development and other investment which are often controlled and guided by vested interests.

Citizen Report Cards

In 2009-10, in nine small and medium towns in Gujarat, in collaboration with seven CSOs, citizen's report card (CRC) based monitoring of basic services was initiated. The report card findings were shared with the municipal officials and elected representatives. After that it was observed, that there was improvement in the services of water supply, garbage collection and street clearing in all 9 towns. The citizens also felt confident to raise the issues before the authorities.

In Bilada town of Jodhpur district, the report card highlighted the practice of manual scavenging. Such a practice is unconstitutional and the Government of Rajasthan has brought out an Act in 2003 prohibiting manual scavenging and rehabilitation of manual scavengers. It was found that neither the cleaning community nor the town people and municipal officials were aware of the legal provisions. The report card process not only helped all the stakeholders to work towards eradicating the system of manual scavenging but also enabled in improving the system of sweeping lanes, cleaning drainage and regular dump site clearance. In Dholka town in Ahmedabad district, the vendors were supported in taking up the issue of allocation of a hawking zone and the municipality regularised the area for the vendors.

Based on the field experience, a video documentary, 'Citizens Speak: Report Card for Accountability' has been produced to further disseminate the methodology of citizen's engagement.

Citizen Support Cell

Like PRCs in the rural context, Citizen Support Cells were information centers that provided information on various government programs to all stakeholders and worked as an interface between the citizens and the municipality in availing benefits of government programs. They facilitated interaction among citizens, elected representatives and officials.

Several capacity building efforts have been made over the years for the elected representatives and the officials of the ULBs. Elected representatives were oriented on 74th CAA, concept of local self-governance, roles and responsibilities, issues of urban poverty and vulnerability. Two training programmes were organised in association with the Urban Development Department (September 3-5 and

October 13-15, 2004) for 15 municipalities of Gujarat. Training was also done on Urban Planning and Resource Management. Trainings were undertaken on operationalisation of Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) and Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) under JNNURM that aim to provide housing and basic services to slums and the marginalised sections of small and medium towns and Implementation of Reforms. In early 2008, trainings were done on Solid Waste Management (SWM).

Demonstration of Solid Waste Management (SWM)

During 2005-06, detailed operational plans for SWM were prepared for Bavla and Kadi municipalities. Illustrative alternates in planning were demonstrated highlighting the centrality of community consultation in planning and implementation and provided for appropriate changes in the expert driven planning process. They promoted people centered planning and integrated habitat development plans for non-notified settlements. A programme was developed to prepare the ULB leaders as managers by exposing them on the technical aspect of City Development Plan, preparation of Detailed Project Reports so that they can effectively engage with the official consultants

Research and Education

Over the years several studies have been undertaken that have guided and contributed to interventions for strengthening local urban governance. Thematic studies on citizen's participation in governance of municipalities, particularly small and medium towns, municipal finance, slum settlements and the informal economy workers, urban poverty issues and challenges were done; part from that seminars, workshops, community consultations were carried out.

3 **Social Accountability for Improving Access to Public Programmes**

Social accountability mechanisms provide opportunity to ordinary citizens to access information, voice their needs and demand accountability. The data presented in the government websites and portals on disbursement of benefits under MGNREGA, NFSA, Pension programs, mandatory social audit, the RTI Act including pro-active disclosure, grievance registration under PG portal and other state level redressal mechanisms provides opportunities for verification of actual entitlements against due claims. However, the vested interest groups do not allow the social accountability process to become a wider people's agenda. UNNATI has mostly received support from the district higher officials and State Departments. In one case of compliant about irregularities in PDS, the Secretary, Civil Supplies order an enquiry and punished the fair price shop dealers.

Demonstrating tools of Social Accountability

UNNATI has been practicing Community Based Monitoring (CBM) and Social Audit for different public programs. In Social Accountability, the major focus has been on developing appropriate format to verify the various entitlements due under a program. Tools such as citizen report cards or community score cards which generate status reports on services or the level of satisfaction of people with a service have been demonstrated. Such tools generate useful information; result in citizen-service provider interaction and improvement in service delivery. However, they are not able to effectively track if particular groups or pockets of people are excluded from the service either completely or have access on unfavourable terms. Discrimination based on caste, gender, disability and other aspects may deter the participation of the excluded and disadvantaged groups in community processes and SA initiatives. CBM is a community based process, fundamental to which is people's participation and provides them with a space to monitor

the delivery of public programmes and using this information for follow up action. Such mechanism empowers the poor to demand accountability and transparency in service delivery and governance. Such tools create a scope for effective participation and ownership of the community and if used effectively, of the socially excluded groups as well.

Mainly seven steps are followed: (i) mobilization of community members; (ii) information campaign to make people aware of the different schemes/programmes, their eligibility and benefits; (iii) verification services; (iv) collation of testimonies; (v) promote social actions through promoting local leaders; (vi) outcome sharing through Gram Panchayat Coordination Committee (GPCC), which comprises of the PRI members and representatives of the service providers in the GP; and finally, (vii) a sound grievance redressal mechanism, where grievances are taken up with the higher government authorities by the community members. To be able to carry out all these processes, UNNATI has worked on the strategy for improving access to public programmes through strengthening and capacity building of people's collectives for demand creation through capacity strengthening of PRIs, village level programmatic committees and citizen leaders. Mainly there are the following critical steps followed with the citizen leaders:

(i)   The training of citizen leaders and staff on the principles , practices and tools and techniques of social accountability;

(ii)   Collection of information about the actual implementation of the schemes in terms of processed followed and people benefitted is a critical activity;

(iii) A calendar is prepared and implemented for the mobilization, information campaign and verification of various schemes.

Prior to the campaign, information kiosks are set up at the market places where hundreds of people come to know about the schemes as well as the schedule of the SA. Leaflets and pamphlets were distributed to those who were interested to know more. Periodic rallies Right to Education (RTE), services under ICDS and similar others are also organised to raise awareness about the programs. Special activities like 'Jan

Samvad Rath', cycle based 'Soochna Seva', 'Mahiti Seva' are also organised. Followed by information campaign, the verification process is initiated. At the village level, priority public schemes are listed and the community is engaged to develop a common list that is to be monitored for which data collection, analysis, sharing and learning is carried out. Communities are encouraged through a participatory assessment to define monitoring indicators with regard to the status of services. As the village men and women have no prior experience of interacting with service providers and assessing the standard of services, they find it difficult to develop indicators. They are taken for exposure visits to local Community Health Centers, PHCs, PDS outlets, anganwadis and primary schools and they interact with service providers as well as service receivers. Prior to the visits, they are prepared for these interactions through simulation. Citizen leaders develop understanding on very simple monitoring indicators like eligible people not accessing the program, those not receiving full entitlements, facilities and basic amenities available at the service point, proactive disclosure of information, functioning of program committees, etc.

Interface with Government

UNNATI has engaged with the government to make delivery of public programmes more effective. In 2011, the organization worked as an independent Social Audit Unit (SAU) of MGNREGS in the state of Gujarat to operationalize social audit. The SAU worked in close coordination with the state, district and taluka level administrative structure. 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. The organization also took up strengthening to grievance redressal mechanisms and reaching the left out citizens to facilitate their participation and increasing their accessibility to these services and schemes and also created mechanisms for monitoring of local governing system.

Handholding to other organizations for promoting accountability practices

UNNATI has worked on rights-based approach which seeks to make the duty-bearers (primarily the State) accountable to the claim-holders (its citizens) for protecting and promoting human rights. Citizens have a dual role, both as 'claim holders' and also as 'duty bearers'; they can demand their rights as claim holders, and they can also play a decisive role through various actions to ensure that their demands are fulfilled. The organization believes that access to government programs can be improved when people, through their collective strength and forums can hold the service delivery institutions accountable. At the same time, UNNATI facilitated the capacity strengthening of civil society organizations and local community groups, as well as the local governing bodies for improving access to public programmes and schemes.

4 Disaster Risk Reduction towards Building Community Resilience

UNNATI started working on disaster risk reduction after the Gujarat Earthquake of 2001. Aligned with the vision of the organization, the focus of the approach in DRR are social inclusion and effective participation of marginal communities in planning and implementation in vulnerability reduction. Besides promotion of community based DRR practices, UNNATI is also involved in training and formulation of policies and guidelines in collaboration with government and civil society organisations.

Owner Driven Reconstruction

The organization implemented, collaborated and promoted 'owner driven reconstruction (ODR)' as an empowering strategy for post disaster recovery. UNNATI brings in the component of social facilitation which includes elements like social inclusion, gender justice and vulnerability reduction in relief, rehabilitation and recovery. In partnership with state authorities, it conducts studies and develops appropriate mechanisms for effective redressal of issues related to access to compensation, availability of land, access to finance, support in estimation of cost as per locally available material and technology, etc. The organization has been associated in social facilitation in the implementation of ODR approach in the housing reconstruction in Gujarat earthquake, Tsunami that hit parts of south India, the Bihar Koshi floods and the Government of India supported program in Nepal earthquake. Besides the promotion of ODR approach, the organization has developed enabling processes for people's participation in creation of interim shelters, urban planning in post disaster situations and social accountability. In order to promote disaster safe housing reconstruction in a sustainable manner, technology parks were designed. Recently, along with People in Center, UNNATI prepared a mason manual on safe housing construction which was printed and published by National Disaster Management Authority.

Contribution to DRR Policy and Framework

It has been working on DRR policy framework, particularly under the guidance and advice of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in drafting the National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP). After the release of the NDMP in 2016 by the Hon. Prime Minister of India, the organization was engaged in the subsequent revision and improvement of the plan document which was published in November 2019. In association with Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management (GIDM), it also prepared a Disaster Management Plan for a Chemical Industrial estate on a pilot basis. UNNATI facilitated in revising the District Disaster Management Plan (DDMP) for Anand district of Gujarat and piloted the Taluka Disaster Management Plan for Vagra Taluka of Bharuch district in Gujarat. The guidelines for the TDMP prepared by UNNATI was published by the Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority (GSDMA). The organization has also been engaged in mainstreaming DRR in development planning and promoting convergence of activities and resources through piloting the preparation of risk-informed Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs).

Disaster Response and Capacity Strengthening

UNNATI has 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. It has also worked in the area of Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction (CMDRR) in many locations including developing early warning mechanism reaching the last mile Ghaghra river flooding area in Bahraich district, school safety in Bhachau block of Gujarat, drought mitigation in Badmer district of Rajasthan. 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. Therefore, the work around school safety was taken up.

UNNATI promotes social facilitation to make disaster response inclusive and reaching the last mile. Approaches, methods and techniques are context specific. The organization brings learning from past experiences of similar situations and builds on them with new innovative ideas as per the local contexts. With affirmative actions for addressing the needs and concerns of the vulnerable groups, it focuses its interventions primarily for the empowerment and participation of these groups. It promotes equal access to resources and opportunities for relief, recovery and capacity strengthening, as well as the overall development of the communities.

Water Governance and Building Community Resilience against Disasters and Climate Change

UNNATI has been involved in work related to water governance for a very long time both in Rajasthan and Gujarat. In Rajasthan especially, water governance has been a major focus of intervention. A water security programme was initiated in 2003 through the DRCs to ensure rain water harvesting structures for families. In response to the drought in 2009, interventions were carried out for supply of safe drinking water to the vulnerable groups and construction of rain water harvesting tanks (Tankas) for the poorest of the poor. Studies were done to understand the status of the Common Property Resources (CPR), IEC materials (booklets, documentaries) were produced, trainings and workshop were conducted for capacity building of the community. Innovative practices for development of pastureland for fodder security were promoted and carried out, which aimed at strengthening local capacities on horti-pastoral practices. Systems were also developed to monitor government health services and practices for disaster risk transfer coverage through insurance. The Dalit community got access to water within their financial means.

Presently the organization is working in 50 villages of Patodi and Sindhri blocks of Badmer district of Western Rajasthan, which is part of the Thar Desert. The expected results include (i) Improvement in access to food and adequate nutrition through better agricultural practices, timely access to farm

implements and agriculture extension services of the Government, (ii) Improvement in access of social security, health and nutrition related Government programs and (iii) Improvement in WASH practices. The agency of woman farmers and adolescent girls from the Dalit community will be strengthened for facilitating the desired change as it is they who have been facing the brunt of double discrimination and marginalization. A climate change school (Prakruti Pathshala) has also been started as part of community based climate change education and action.

Similarly in Kutch, Gujarat, UNNATI has been aiming to promote a multi-sectoral approach for managing disasters risks in development through an integrated approach comprising of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Ecosystem Management and Restoration (EMR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) to address the multi-faceted dimensions of vulnerability reduction and building community resilience against disasters. Along with the interventions for developing perspective risk informed development plans with the PRIs, trainings, workshops, consultations, campaigns are carried out to create awareness about the risks due to climate change, degradation of Common Property Resources, major and local hazards, etc. and develop capacity to plan for development, first aid, search and rescue.

Partnership and Collaboration

It works in partnership and collaboration to bring participatory social facilitation process to make every stage of disaster risk reduction people centered, empowering and sustainable. This distinctive approach makes the DRR interventions more relevant, appropriate and ensures the reach to the last mile. It also creates opportunity to work with diverse sectors like social housing, infrastructure development, livelihood promotion, psycho-social care, urban planning in post disaster situations and disaster mitigation issues with a community based participatory approach. After the Gujarat earthquake, an informal network – Owner Driven Reconstruction Collaborate (ODRC) was formed in which the organization is a core founding member. It has been the secretariat of Inter-Agency Group for DRR in Gujarat since 2011. It is a part of various state and national level committees/forums including the National Alliance for DRR, Asian Disaster Risk Reduction Network (ADRRN), and Basin South Asia. The organization is also member of Janpath a state level network of NGOs and Voluntary Action Network India (VANI). It works closely with the government at all levels and works closely with the National Disaster Management Authority and DM authorities at the State and District levels and is now engaged at the global forums in building Southern Leadership in DRR as well.

Gujarat Programme Office
G 1/200, Azad Society,
Ahmedabad 380 015. India
Tel: +91-79-26746145, 26733296
Email: psu_unnati@unnati.org

Rajasthan Programme Office
650, Radhakrishnan Puram,
Chopasni Pal Bypass Link Road
Jodhpur 342 014. Rajasthan
Tel: +91-7425858111
Email: jodhpur_unnati@unnati.org

Rural Training Centre
Nava Gam, Bhachau,
Kutch 370 140. Gujarat
Tel: +91-2837-223294

Coordinating Office
216, Azad Society,
Ahmedabad 380 015. Gujarat
Tel: +91-79-26746145, 26733296
Email: psu_unnati@unnati.org

Coordinating Office,
Ahmedabad

Gujarat Programme Office,
Ahmedabad

Rajasthan Programme Office,
Jodhpur

Rural Training Centre,
Bhachau, Kutch

उन्नति

UNNATI
Organisation for Development Education

www.unnati.org