



Utthan envisions a society that imbibes and ensures the values of gender justice, equality and peace, in practice, resulting in happiness for all.

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

**2018-2019**



## **The Beginnings :**

Utthan's journey began in 1981, when four women chose to work in the desolate Bhal region of Gujarat, helping marginalized communities to self-organise around critical livelihood issues and develop local leadership. Utthan, which means 'upliftment' in Hindi initiated a people's movement comprising a large number of women and youth, to address their rights to regular, safe drinking water, protecting and accessing common land for their livelihood security, challenging patriarchy, feudal exploitation and caste discrimination at local levels. In the process, Utthan facilitated the formation of a community-based organisation known as Mahiti (knowledge), which has been a local force since 1994.

## **Utthan's intense work**

for nearly 40 years has been in the drought-prone coastal areas of Saurashtra – Amreli, Bhavnagar and Kutch districts and the poverty-stricken tribal districts of Dahod, Panchmahal, and Mahisagar of south Gujarat. Continuing its quest for exploration and sharing of learning's, Utthan's leadership and work has extended to neighbouring districts and to communities in Chattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Odisha, as well as to movements in South Asia and across the world.

## **Mission:**

To initiate sustainable gender sensitive, grass root processes of empowerment amongst the most vulnerable communities; through a process of inclusion, building conscientiousness, and organising around their major issues.

## **Index**

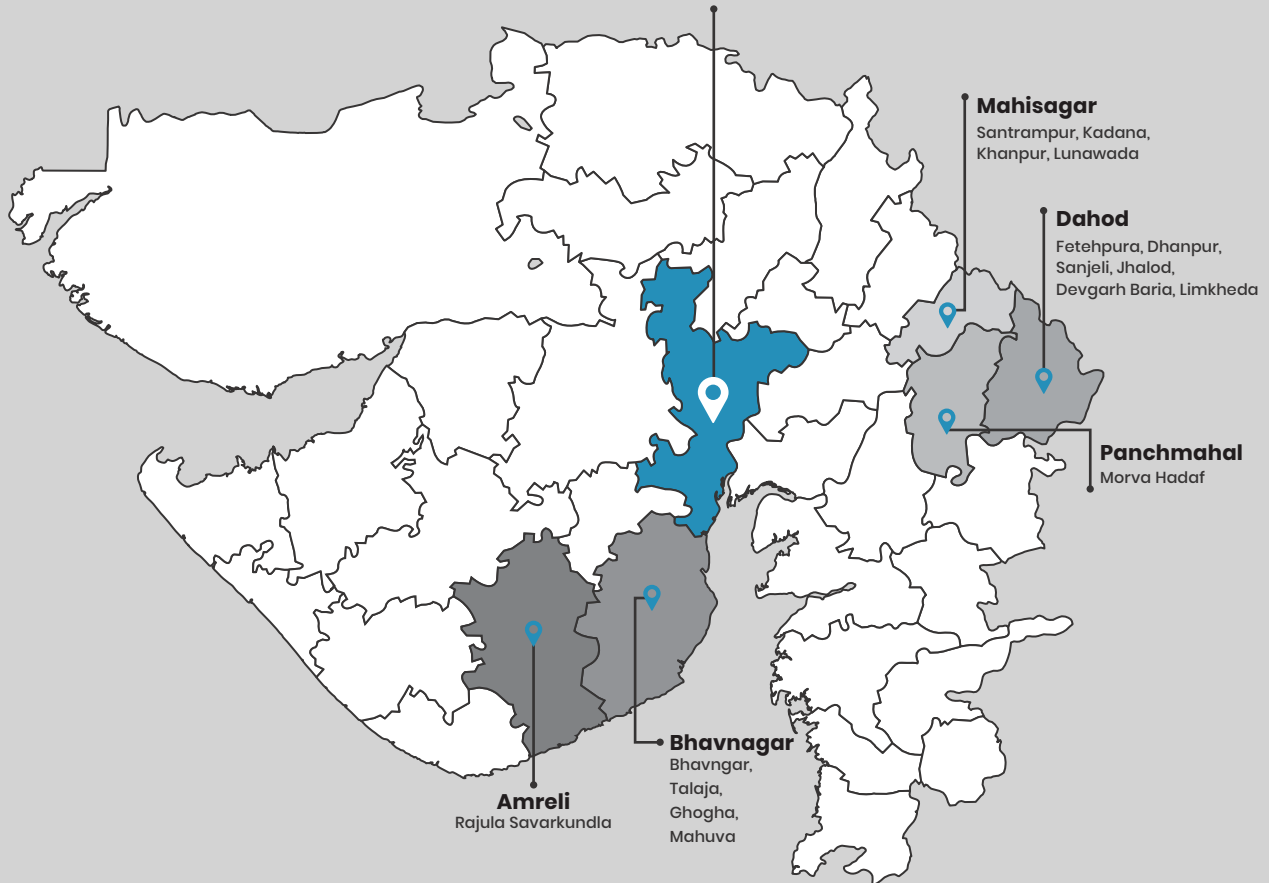
<b>1. Utthan at a Glance</b>	<b>01</b>
<b>2. Chief Executive Officer's Note</b>	<b>03</b>
<b>3. Approach &amp; Strategy</b>	<b>04</b>
<b>4. Thrust Areas</b>	<b>05 – 33</b>
• Gender Equity & Women's Rights	
• Livelihood Security	
• Conflict Transformation towards peace and justice	
• Access to Safe Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	
• Institutional Building and Leadership Development	
<b>5. Utthan's Board</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>6. Partners in Transformation</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>7. Accounts and Transparency</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>8. In the Media</b>	<b>38</b>



# Utthan at a Glance

## GUJARAT

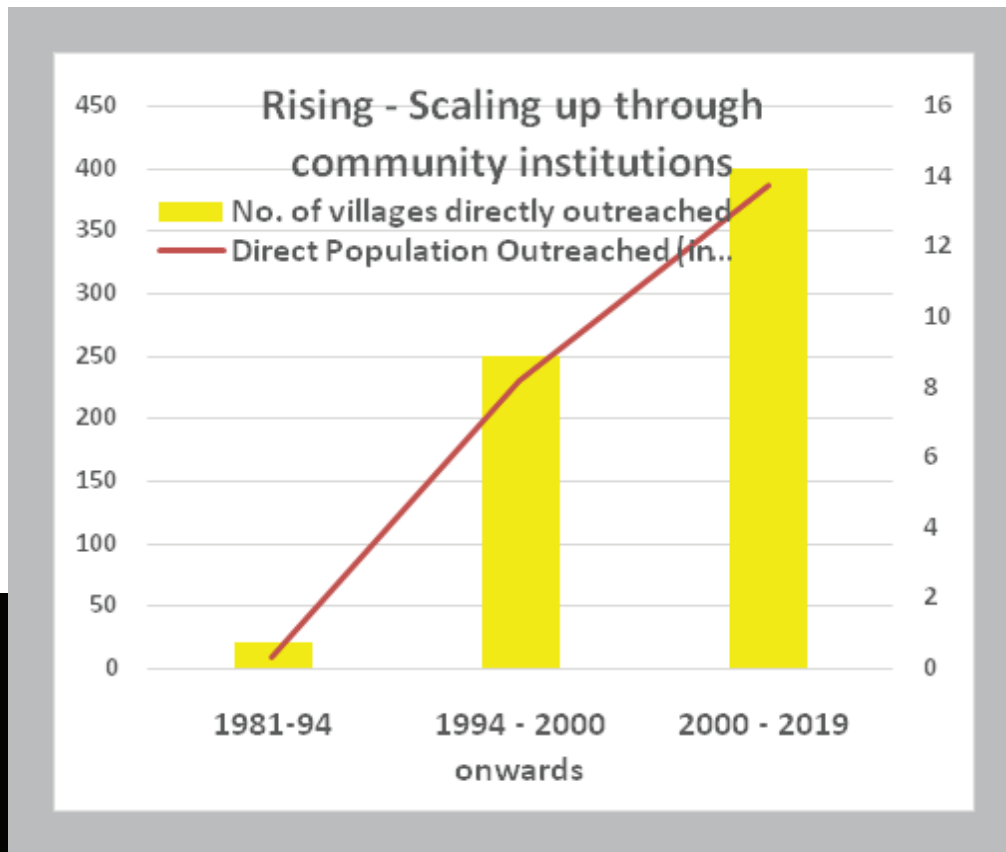
Support Office  
Ahmedabad



As of 2019, Utthan directly touches the lives of more than 1.4 million people of 412 villages in 5 districts of Gujarat.

Indirectly reaches out to 0.2 million people of 240 villages of Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chattisgarh and Odisha

Utthan's Outreach	In Gujarat	Outside Gujarat
Districts	5	19
Blocks	19	24
Villages	412	240
Population	13,75,962	19,1400
Households	1,94,409	34,800



## Recognitions In 2018-19

- Awarded the 'Best Performing Organization in 2018-19' award in recognition of its outstanding work on Watershed Development initiatives in Lukhadia- Kundawada villages in the district of Dahod under NABARD's WDF projects.
- Featured in Women's Land Rights film produced by Geospatial Media 2019
- Featured in the launch of the #OURLANDOURSTORY campaign by The Land Portal, Cadasta Foundation and NRMC at the ILDC, 2018
- 3 case stories featured in NABARD's Success Stories: Transforming Lives: Watershed development Projects in Gujarat.



## Chief Executive Officer's Note



Change in society is inevitable. Civil society organisations can play a very important and critical role in guiding this change, ensuring it is appropriate and empowering for those at the margins. In the current socio political economic context, peoples' situation and lives has become even more precarious. It has become more even more important to raise the questions, Where are we? What are the solutions? and find answers.

I resonate with the words of Shri KarshandasManek, a celebrated Gujarati poet of

“I really wonder why flowers sink while stones swim,  
Those found stealing a fistful of grains are severely punished,  
whilethose robbing grain godowns are rendered celebrities!”

The ground realities reflect the increasing chasm between the resource rich and the resource poor. The vulnerable are not able to fully access even basic entitlements. In this scenario, the role of organisations such as Utthan and its team becomes even more critical. Our efforts are geared to mobilising communities and building their capacities in voicing their issues. Just and equitable, socio technical demonstrations are helping us provide a platform for learning and exchange and build replicable models for sharing with multiple stakeholders, Government on non-Government.

Efforts by institutional leaders and the Board has helped us expand our area of influence and reach out to newer villages, identified for the diverse mix of population, resource and rights status of the marginalized.The trust laid by the EdelGive Foundation in supporting organisational development along with two models in livelihood and women's security proved to be one of the key propellers to a rooted leadership transition phase at Utthan. Support from the AzimPremji Philanthropic Initiatives helped Utthan coalesce its diverse experience in agriculture and allied work by initiating a first large scale effort with 5000 women farmers. A considerable expansion was also initiated through the Fellowship Programme with 24 Fellows reaching out to 230 villages to create awareness pertaining to constitutional rights and values amongst communities. Being the National Resource Agency for Bharat Rural Livelihood Foundation to facilitate an appropriate implementation of inclusive and sustainable water and sanitation programs (WASH) helped influence the work of 20 CSOs in 5 States

I thank the entire Utthan team for their dedication and vigour. My gratitude to the Board for their very proactive participation in our journey and growth.I continue to seek your guidance and support.

**Pravin Bhikadiya**  
Chief Executive Officer

## Approach & Strategy

Approaches and Strategies get influenced by the context and the environment an organization chooses to operate and influence. Utthan, on its part, realised early that challenges pertaining to access to resources, entitlements and quality of life of the marginalized need to be squarely located within a struggle for justice. Inspired by Gandhian approach, its interventions are geared to address the challenges of translating constitutional rights and values in society. Utthan is an evolving exploration in community-based, community-led change founded on a core of non-negotiable values: equity, democracy, liberty, secularism, social justice. These values link everything it does, and every capacity it tries to build and sustain.

Promoting peaceful coexistence, ensuring human rights, gender justice and inclusive, sustainable development for positive change in the status of the marginalized (women, youth and children from Dalit, tribal, OBC, religious minorities and economically poor communities) thus form the core of its approach.

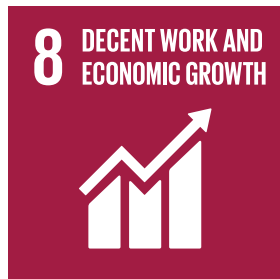
### Strategies:

- Participatory situation analysis of challenges in multiple, intersectional contexts
- Awareness raising & organising around issues: building community agency through participatory communication
- Strengthening leaders & institutions: collective prioritization & planning
- Demonstrating best practices: social & technical alternatives based on people's knowledge and new innovations
- Building a body of Utthan learnings for sharing and exchange: strengthening its team as a resource pool with core competencies for influence & growth
- Policy advocacy through networking and partnerships with various Government & non-Government stakeholders

## Thrust Areas

Over the years, Utthan has built a capacity to work with a wide range of stakeholders at the micro, macro and international levels, integrating lessons learnt from each. Its 'Thrust Areas' are intrinsically linked to each other, and have emerged as major issues during its journey for social justice in Gujarat. Utthan's connect with communities at the grassroots level, movements at State and national level and that with global policy discourse and benchmarks on rights issues has greatly contributed in shaping its interventions.

Its interventions are closely aligned to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the 193 countries of the UN General Assembly in September 2015.



- **Gender Equity & Women's Rights**
- **Livelihood Security**
- **Conflict Transformation towards peace and justice**
- **Access to Safe Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene**
- **Institutional Building and Leadership Development**



## Gender Equity & Women's Rights

**Our key experiences** in this Thrust Area centre around efforts to address existing inequalities in society by challenging kyriarchal attitudes embedded in formal and informal structures and institutions. Strengthening a grassroots women's movement with a focus on protecting and securing rights of women and girls, Utthan has intensively worked on the issues of Right to Safety & Security, Resource Rights (Land, Property, Forest, Credit), Right to Water, Sanitation and hygiene, political participation and Access to basic entitlements. Integrating a feminist approach in all our Thrust Areas has been critical. Partnership with SamarthanMahilaSangathan (Bhavnagar), MahilaVikasSangathan (Rajula&Mahuva), EktaMahilaSangathan (Santrampur) and Vanita Shakti MahilaSangathan (Dhanpur) has made it possible to raise awareness, support survivors of violence and injustice; constantly engage and rally with responsible actors; demonstrate sustainable alternatives – all which have been pivotal in building leadership of grassroots women and their institutions.

**Our key achievement** in the year 2018-19 was a revitalisation of the concerted efforts by Sangathans to strengthen their financial management systems and provide support to survivors of violence. Utthan and the Women's Sangathans thus partnered to place women's rights in the public space at the district level in both its coastal and tribal areas of operation.

### Support to Strengthen Governance within Women's Sangathans

Through their increased interaction within their areas of operation, the Sangathans emboldened their overall membership by 2700+ women this year. The Executive Committees (EC) of some Sangathans underwent changes and the Committees strategised their work around contact building, awareness raising, survivor and linkage support. The Committees underwent training on sustainability and strengthening diversity to reach out to most marginalised women. As part of revitalisation efforts, the EC and active members collectively reconstituted the core and supportive membership of their Justice Committees (JC) & Economic Empowerment Committees (EEC) based on knowledge, skills and attitudes.



The 2 Centres for SwabhoomiKendras (Centre for legal literacy around land and access to productive resources) continued their interventions.

Over 2000 active members joined the Annual General Meetings convened on Women's Day. It provided an excellent opportunity to boost the visibility of the Sangathans and the work undertaken by the JCs & EECs.

## Safety & Security of Women & Girls

Utthan provided sustained skill and perspective building trainings for 42 core and supportive Justice Committee (JC) members. Critical perspective on need and values of the JC, what constitutes legal and illegal were taken up. The functioning of the police station, Courts, free legal aid centres were discussed in the process of identifying barriers to justice. The importance of documentation in survivor support was discussed and existing system was analysed and recommendations made. Strategic Linkages were made with I- Probono, a non-profit, giving legal assistance and strategic support on the issue of VAW, to help scale the capacity of NyaySamiti members. 191 survivors were supported over the year.

Keeping in mind the context of the increasing magnitude of violence, lack of awareness of women related laws, prevalent anti women and patriarchal attitudes and lack of support to survivors accessing justice, a Campaign with a Collective call to end all forms of violence against women and girls was taken up in 50 villages of 4 districts. It reached out to 50000+ people.

Vanita Shakti MahilaSangathan & Utthan co- organized the Dahod leg of the National Dignity March for raising the issue of sexual violence against women and girls. Nearly 1000 persons joined the event to condemn violence and demand that justice delivery mechanisms in the State ensure speedy and fair justice to survivors.





Kamlaben and Tijliben Damor sisters' in law – the former lost her husband 4 years back while the latter returned to stay in her natal home after a divorce. It had been a long journey of increasing harassment by some family members who had branded them as 'witches', responsible for their uncle's death.

"Nobody supported us. When the Awareness campaign was held in Mota Sharnaya village we gathered some strength. We located the number of the Nyay Samiti of Ekta Mahila Sangathan. Their swift support helped us to lodge a complaint with the Police and raise our voice against the violence". The perpetrators are currently absconding but the Police have assured protection to the women. The matter is in process now.

Over 12000 persons directly joined the campaign, it was widely covered in the local print and television media. The JCs have been approached by numerous persons and survivors for information and support thereafter.

## Women's Rights to Resources and Entitlements

### Land & Property:

The Swabhoomi Kendras running in Ghogha, Bhavnagar & Dhanpur, Dahod directly reached out to 20 villages with regards to awareness on right to land, property, entitlements through regular interactions with various stakeholders and a campaign on women's rights to land Rights. Sustained perspective, skill and legal knowledge building through collective exercises helped paralegals to reach out to and support 117 women, out of which 35 women received their rightful land in their name. 10 women joined as Gram Mitras under ATMA.

### Ratniben with her land rights documents

"They're still trying to scare me away and grab my land." The Police have come twice to the village and enquired about violence against her, people in the village are careful not to support the perpetrators. "There is no fault of mine. Why should I be afraid? I'm not going anywhere" says, Ratniben, Member Vanita Shakti Mahila Sangathan

Access and control over land led to better participation in decisions related to home management, farming, crop selection. Livelihood alternatives have been found to increase and women have become more vocal in resisting domestic violence.

However in a few cases, where the inheritance rights claiming process is duly complete and approved, the concerned woman's male family member/s or relative/s are found to be not willing to sign the response papers that arrive from the Block, leading to further delays in getting her name registered in the approved note. Issues and barriers such as these were collectively raised at block and district level and at the State level, through the Working Group for Women & Land Ownership (GWLO).

#### **Forest:**

Utthan as part of a 5 district study along with GWLO members took up an initiative to understand the status of IFR applications from a gender perspective. Dhanpur saw a high rate of claim rejections. Out of those approved, most have got lesser land than what they had claimed for. The Adhikarpatra of majority of these are not in joint names, as mandated. At the end of the year, focused work on rights of tribal and OTFD women was taken up through the initiation of efforts in 10 villages of Dhanpur on Individual Forest Rights as part of a GWLO collective.

#### **Credit:**

By the end of the year, 304 new women joined and microfinance activities across SHGs and Sangathans. Trainings of the Economic Empowerment Committee core and supportive members helped to prioritise actions to improve these activities.

#### **Basic Entitlements & Government Schemes:**

2423 women were supported by Sangathans and their Committees to access various basic entitlements with respect to rations, sanitation, pensions, housing etc. and Schemes around agriculture and livelihoods.

## **Empowering Young Girls through Higher Education**

A high percentage of girls drop out from middle school education due to reasons steeped in patriarchy. A smaller number complete higher studies. Utthan's collaboration with the Kavita Mehta Foundation (KMF) led to the sponsorship of 8 such girls to reach the top of the ladder and complete their higher education.

"I really wanted to study further and my dream has been finally fulfilled. I would also like to thank my parents for supporting me in completing my XIIth. Elders in my family kept saying girls are not supposed to study further - they should be cooking and be responsible for housekeeping. Now my parents proudly give my example to our neighbours."

**"Aisha Ganda, Jhalod"**

"I can't imagine what could have been the situation if I would have not have received this scholarship. I would have probably dropped out of the college and would have been doing some small part-time job to financially support my family. I would like to thank Utthan and KMF for supporting me."

**"PoojaSumra, Bhumbli village, Bhavnagar district"**

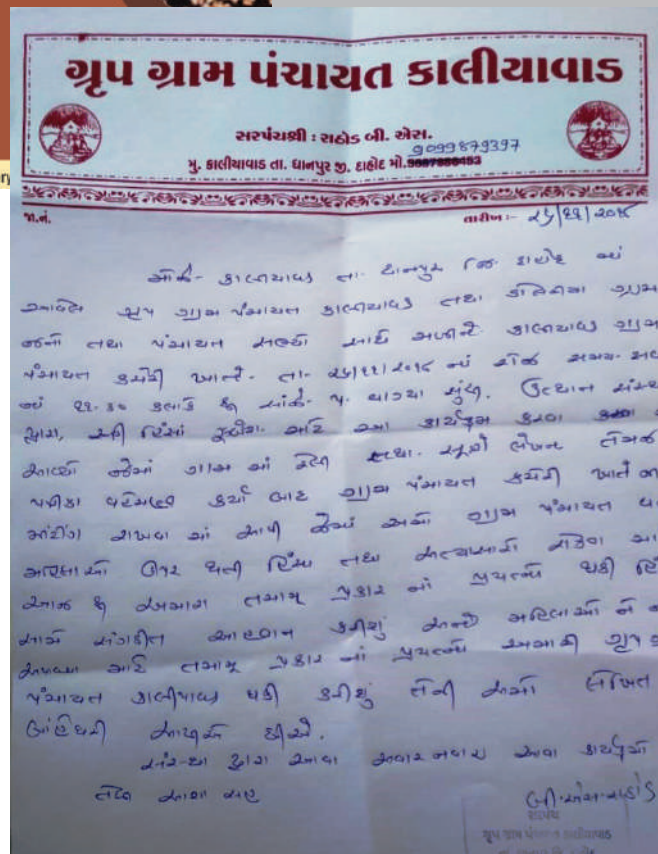
Utthan continued to share important grassroots issues faced by women in accessing their basic entitlements and rights directly and through the various Networks it is part of. This helped influence implementation mechanisms. Grassroots campaigns helped to raise awareness at local level and ally with local institutions and Government.

[http://utthangujarat.org/pdf\\_file/Supporting-single-womens-right-to-land-OLOS-campaign-launch-March-2019.pdf](http://utthangujarat.org/pdf_file/Supporting-single-womens-right-to-land-OLOS-campaign-launch-March-2019.pdf)



"Ratniben finally got her land rights due to the strength of local Mahila Sangathan, technical knowledge of sensitive paralegals and a lot of time spent on constant follow up."

### Widow's struggle to get family land: Ratniben's Land Rights Journey





## Livelihood Security

**Our key experiences** in this Thrust Area centres around improving the abilities of marginalised communities to enhance their quality of life. Sustainability, equity and a people-centred approach is the common thread in designing and implementing gender sensitive, inclusive natural resource management initiatives to protect and augment livelihood resources through the demonstration of innovative alternatives through people's institutions. Utthan has successfully demonstrated innovations in soil, water, forest, biodiversity conservation and climate resilience including reversed watershed concept, improving productivity through salt tolerant crop species in coastal area, rain water harvesting in lined ponds, sub surface check dams, natural farming, conservation of local seed and food crops, lobster-prawn-crab fattening. Efforts have included addressing the impact of policy and governance issues on people's livelihoods by capacitating local institutions to protect livelihoods, facilitating their engagement with Panchayats, enabling access and control over resources and entitlements.

**Our key achievement** in the year 2018-19 is the initiation of two new models: Demonstrating gender sensitive, ecologically sustainable livelihood security alternatives for most marginalized & Building capacities of 1000 women as trainers in sustainable agriculture. As a conscious decision the focus was to work with women farmers and also to bring awareness on the definition of a 'farmer' as per the National Policy for farmers in India 2007, the first policy document clarifying the various kinds of persons who are considered farmers. Choosing marginalised women as demonstration partners and developing a mechanism for collective community processes has been critical to all our work.

### Building capacities of 1000 women as trainers in sustainable agriculture

The model is based in strengthening technical capacities of women farmers in sustainable agriculture to rejuvenate livelihoods (agricultural incomes) through better practices and spearheading a movement in natural farming.

629 potential women farmers with a will to learn and strive towards sustainable livelihoods (increase in income, resource base and productivity), other rights and entitlements were identified to widen the leadership base and strengthen women's identity as farmers.

- **Districts** 04; Dahod, Panchmahals, Mahisagar, Bhavnagar
- **Blocks** 06; Santrampur, Fatehpura, Dhanpur, Ghogha, Mahuva, Bhavnagar
- **Villages** 30
- **HHs** 5000

246 soil and water tests helped draw the attention of the community on increased salinity levels due to excessive use of chemical fertilisers and groundwater contamination. This was followed by advisories to the farmers. Demonstration partners were also trained to scientifically collect soil samples for testing. 6 farm ponds were constructed to recharge ground water as a means to conservation in salinity affected soils. In Dayal village, Mahuva, the women's SHG contributed Rs. 7000 to demo partners for farm pond construction. 20 farm outlets in bunds were constructed in farms close to the coast, to provide a conduit for water escape without nutrient or soil erosion. Gypsum treatment was carried out with 21 women farmers of Bhavnagar district, having farm lands impacted by salinity. Well deepening with recharge was done with 12 farmers. Agricultural innovations like creeper vegetables, vegetable demonstrations with drip and drum drip irrigation, food and cash crop demonstrations and horticulture developed were taken up with 152 small and marginal women farmers to boost income opportunities. Most of the selected relief partners' were single women. These were accompanied by trainings and exposure for 938 women. 1400 women farmers were reached out through awareness. The interventions have generated huge interest amongst other women farmers. Leadership building and gender sensitisation helped to initiate capacity enhancement of a promising group of women farmers. Most trainers are members of the local District Women's Federations.

- **Soil testing leads to better productivity in Konjdi village, Mahuva block of Bhavnagar district.**

Kherunben has a family of seven. A recent accident rendered her husband physically challenged and incapable of performing hard labour, making her the sole livelihood earner in the family, in addition to her responsibilities of looking after her husband and aged in-laws. Dependence on rain fed farming and low farms productivity has been a challenge. She enthusiastically joined the Gram Sabha where sustainable agriculture was to be discussed with the hope of some solutions. The Village Development Committee unanimously decided that she be selected as a demonstration partner. Soil testing of her farm was done on the basis of which cotton was suggested to her. She reaped a good crop. "Through soil testing, I got to know the required quantity of fertilizer for the cotton crop. This has reduced my fertilizer cost. I am using less quantity of fertilizer as compared to earlier. My neighboring farms are growing cotton, but the difference is visible. These have only been possible due to constant efforts and guidance from Utthan team and support of the Committee members"



## Establishing models demonstrating gender sensitive, ecologically sustainable livelihood security alternatives to enhance incomes, improve food security and quality of life of the most marginalized

The approach adopted was to consolidate livelihood security demonstrations by deepening proven practices with value addition based on grassroots knowledge and new innovations through crucial investments to fill gaps, leveraging and converging resources from Government and other institutions in a total of 4 villages. 2 each in Gujarat's coastal and tribal ecology. The learnings are to be disseminated in the remaining 40 villages through campaigns.

- **Districts** 04; Dahod, Panchmahals, Mahisagar, Bhavnagar
- **Blocks** 06; Kadana, Morva Hadaf, Dhanpur, Ghogha, Mahuva, Bhavnagar
- **Villages** 44
- **Direct work** 100 HHs in 4 villages

In the year Village Development Committees were formed in all the villages as an institution which would lead this effort. Value based leadership building inputs were provided to take ahead the process of physical demonstrations with democratically selected 25 vulnerable families. These included well deepening, soil conservation through farm and stone bunding, drip irrigation, kitchen gardening, organic composting/pesticide, vegetable demonstrations with 65 families. Trainings in sustainable livelihood techniques and technologies were done with 280 women and men, alongside.

An intensive campaign supported by 75 volunteers (local level leaders, volunteers, members of the Women's federation) reached out to information on govt. and non govt. schemes with 7,139 households, nearly 21000 persons. The need of the people have been mapped and follow ups will be made over the next year to help them access the resources. 1944 were supported to raise resources out of which 711 applications were approved and the rest applications are in process.

### • **Ensuring Equity: Resources for most marginalised**

Utthan played a key role in supporting the VDCs to select the most vulnerable based on existing resource base, social standing, challenges faced and scope. All the demonstration partners selected were women so that their identity as farmers be strengthened and their demonstration units contribute to some behavioral change in how the village community views women and their livelihoods. In Mota Sharnaya, the vegetable creeper demonstration of Maniben was visited by approximately 90 men and women which gave her an increased sense of ownership and confidence. Sharing her experience and the methodology lent her an identity of a person having knowledge in improved practices.

- **Gomtiben secures supplementary income through creeper vegetables' demonstration**

Gomtiben Dhapa, 42 years, lives in Hathab village of Bhavnagar with family of 7 including three daughters and her inlaws. Her family owns 2 bighas of land. Unable to sustain the family only through farming, her husband started a small soda shop in the village. The burden of farming came on to Gomtiben. She thought of growing vegetables for supplementary income, but excess watering caused the vegetables to perish. Gomtiben's participated in the hamlet meeting and shared her difficulties. Her interest led her to get involved in the leadership and package of practice trainings. She was motivated to take the demonstration of creeper vegetables and cross crop cultivation. The capacitated trainers guided the implementation and trained her in biofertilizer and pesticide production. "I am very happy with the production I am getting through the organic creeper vegetable demo. Cross cultivation has helped me growing many varieties of vegetables. They are a good size and tasty too. I am able to fetch a good price in the market, nearly Rs.3000 per month. This really helps us with the household expenses."

- **Drum drip demo, a boon for tribal area:**

Daxaben Sangod, Pav village, Dhanpur block

"Earlier I thought, that apart from monsoon, growing vegetables is impossible in our area, but drum drip irrigation made it possible. After my selection as a demonstration partner, I received proper training and technical support throughout the activity. I have grown brinjal, tomatoes and chillies in 0.01 acres of land area. In the past 20 days, I earned around Rs.1500 by selling it in our village market" says Daxaben with a smile. The drum drip innovation was financially feasible and it was also possible to economize the use of water. Many others have become interested in implementing the technique in their farm.





## Watershed Development Initiatives with Climate Change Adoption and Climate Proofing

Three Watershed Development Projects covering 500 households of Agaswani, Dudhamli, Kundavada, Lukhadiya, Modhwa, Pipodara, Sajoi villages are in progress from a climate change adaptation approach, including climate proofing interventions. Risk mitigation measures included

- Establishment of a Climate Risk Mitigation Centre and a knowledge management system for climate proofing, headed by a community resource person to keep the communities updated about latest developments. An internet connection at the Mitigation Centre helped farmers to access required information, agri magazines and linking to I-Kisan portal.
- Training on crop and water budgeting, exposure on micro irrigation system, plasticulture, technical and managerial training on maintenance, refresher training on records and account keeping for SHG, Federations and VWC to improve financial management.
- Link for weather crop advisory services was made with IFFCO Kisan Sanchar Ltd. to guide farmers in the location.
- 328 persons were supported to secure Kisan credit cards and 115 farmers joined the Prime Minister's Crop insurance scheme.

Folk plays, wall paintings and communication material was used for education and behavioural change.

- **Single but not alone: A woman farmer gets 0.05 acres 2 guntha of government land through advocacy**

Nabuben Chudasama, an OBC woman from Navagam village of Ghogha block had her name in the family inheritance after losing her husband. Nabuben and the extended family practice farming but this year due to insufficient rains, her 40 to 50 ft. deep well also remained dry and could not support irrigation. When she participated in the village group meeting and discussed the issue of water scarcity, she was recommended applying for the small irrigation scheme, under which she could get 2 gunthas of land for a well. The team helped her go through the application, technical documentation and verification process. A six month period led to final release of the allotment order of 2 gunthas. "I didn't know anything regarding the government scheme but with support of the team throughout the process, I will now be able to dig a well on that land which will help in getting water for my farms and crops even in the summer season".



## Linkages with varied stakeholders

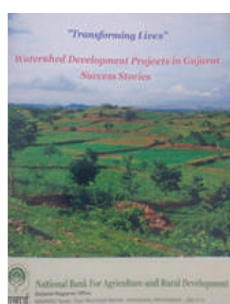
Linkages were made with Government departments especially the Agriculture Department, Krishi Vigyan Kendras and related implementing agencies to access materials, knowledge, expertise, subsidies and schemes at district level. These linkages gave farmers an opportunity to meet officials, gauge opportunities and entitlements and ask critical questions. Linkages with the Gujarat State Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd. and Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC), Mahuva was done to get subsidized soil testing of the selected farmers. Linkages with Anand Agricultural University, District Krishi Vigyan Kendras and other ICAR institutes like Agricultural Research Institute (Madurai), Maize Research Station, Godhra and Central Horticultural Experiment Station were made for learning, exposure visits and expertise in technical knowledge, climate resilient varieties & adaptive agricultural practices. Utthan's linkages with WGWLO and MAKAAAM helped exchange learning's and raise issues of women's farmers at state & national level.



Solar water pump system for irrigation worth Rs. 24 lac leveraged from Gujarat Green Revolution Company impacting 52 families

- Added emphasis on sustaining the soil health, soil testing & soil health cards to the farmers led to improved awareness on testing and application of advisories.
- Improved soil and water regime led to better crop productivity. Due to adoption of natural farming there was improvement in physical properties of soil resulting in higher water retention capacity and increased nutrient availability. Deep ploughing and land leveling also led to increased crop yields. Making of earthen gully plug, farm ponds, check dams, well deepening and recharge helped in improving ground water level and increased water availability for washing clothes, drinking water needs of human and cattle and for agriculture.
- Adoption of climate resilient short duration varieties of wheat, gram and maize which matured during the higher water availability, Adaptation of IPM and INM through application of organic cakes like castor cake and neem cake along with application of bio-pesticides gave impetus to production per unit area.

- Crop diversification through crops like onion and garlic in Rabi season was possible and the income generated was higher than the traditional crops grown in the area.
- Training in silage making helped in storing the fodder for offseason leading to improved milk yield and thereby the income. Forest plantation both in individual as well as block plantation will meet the fuel wood demand and timber wood demand in the long run.
- Honey bee rearing and group flowering helped in generating scope for additional income to the farmers. Raising of horticulture plantation was successful the fruit plants will start yielding after 5 years of age and will provide nutritious food to the farming families and will add to the income of the farmer.
- Seed drill, seed grader helped in saving time in seed sowing, timely sowing, obtaining remunerative price for quality produce. Weeder helped in efficiently removing weeds, faster crop growth, reduction of diversion of water and nutrients to main crop. Labour cost was saved too. Adoption of kitchen garden helped in making nutritious vegetables available to farmers to overcome the problem of malnutrition to some extent and earn additional income by sale of extra produce.
- Providing smokeless chullah to the woman helped in reducing drudgery of woman by reducing their exposure harmful gases. Saving precious fuel wood and time of the woman spent on collection of the fuel.
- Breed improvement through artificial insemination led to increased milk productivity and excellent quality drought animals. Also, animal health camp was helpful in solving many problems along with deworming.
- Poshan vaticas created have led to vegetable sufficiency for all the partners and provided supplementary income support. Ramilaben says, "I kept half the produce for myself and sold the rest."
- Choosing women as demonstration partners, some level of change can be observed in the perception of the villages regarding women's right to land e.g. inclusion of name in varsai documents. Social perceptions on women's ownership of land, long pending inheritance entries and small land holding makes this very challenging. Sangathan's Swabhoomi Kendras are taking up issues of women's resource rights from village to State level. Due to sangathan's awareness on women's land rights, from a total of 333 houses approved in Pav village, 49 houses were in women's name.



Featured in NABARD's  
Success Stories

Best Performing WDF  
project in 2018-19' for its  
outstanding work on  
Watershed Development  
in Lukhadia- Kundawada  
villages



## Conflict Transformation towards Peace and Justice

**Our key experiences** in this Thrust Area : Over the years and in response to conflict in the State, an Utthan strategy has evolved: to work through women and youth, and build inclusion into every initiative, so that issues of peace, equity and justice can be understood as essential to sustainability. Identifying common issues to bring women and youth of different communities and identities together, promoting secular values in education and community level discussions on notions of justice, its delivery, marginalisation due to intersectionality is helping to build bridges between fractured communities and transform conflicts to a great extent.

**Our key achievement** in the year 2018-19 was the initiation of a Saathi Fellowship, wherein 24 community based Saathi Fellows reached out to communities of 226 villages to create awareness pertaining to constitutional rights and values. These highly motivated Fellows have done commendable work with various stakeholders' viz. school children, youth and local platforms, gram sabhas on various issues such as violations arising out of inter-caste/religion marriages, untouchability, witch labelling, and access to basic entitlements.

Documenting transformative change processes of a model, providing the scope to motivated youth from marginalised communities to become ambassadors of inclusive and peaceful coexistence

Experience has pointed out that strengthening a cadre of value based leaders can have a deep impact on creating value based citizen's platforms/spaces for promoting a culture of genuine democracy and institutionalising constitutional values in society. It is these transformative processes from the Fellowship programme, at individual, family, community or institution levels which will be documented for learning.

Fellows have been proactively working with various stakeholders to promote constitutional values as a foundation for peaceful coexistence and prosperity through dialogue, discussions, critical thinking, training and interventions and experimentation. The fellowship aims at developing new/renewed representative structures at village/block level who have experiential understanding of constitutional values. It has been delivered through a coordinated knowledge of ethics that can provide contributions of ideas, motivated and citizens to question principles and to debate democratically about the advisability as well as about the means and ends of common welfare action.





“Today I do not hide my identity,  
I am proud to be an Adivasi but before  
that, I am an Indian” – **Dharmishta**



“Constitutional values are a jasbo (spirit)” – **Rajesh**

“Constitutional values are a symbol, it is like the knot at the end  
of a necklace that holds everything together” – **Sajeda**

After a basic orientation, the Fellows were supported to develop their action plans as per the geographical area and stakeholders they chose to work with. Cross learning events were held to share experiences, provide inputs on understanding the democratic structure of India, human rights discourse, articulation and critical thinking. These discussions helped document the processes of change at own, family and community level. Stories of conflict, resistance and change, useful methods and pedagogy were documented. It has brought out learning's on how one can effectively communicate the entire perspective of Constitutional values at the grassroots level.

Apart from this, exposure visits to similar initiatives in Khambhat, Petlad and School for Development, Rajasthan helped sharing, learning and enhancing understanding of different methods being adopted to discuss constitutional values with communities.

- **District/s**05; Amreli, Bhavnagar, Dahod, Mahisagar and Panchmahals
- **Tehsils**13; Rajula and Savarkundla, Amreli Bhavnagar, Ghogha, Mahuva & Talaja, Bhavnagar Fatehpura, Sanjeli & Singavad, Dahod Kadana, Khanpur & Santrampur, Mahisagar Morva hadaf, Panchmahal District:
- **Villages**110 (Coastal Area) and 116 (Tribal Area)
- **Stakeholders:** Youth, Teachers, Citizen's Forum, Village Leaders, Panchayats, Concerned communities

- Several women sarpanchs in tribal area have started playing their actual role as village head – attending Panchayat meetings, Gram Sabhas and taking lead in decision making. Earlier this role was being performed by their husbands or male family members. Interactions between Fellows and community led to sensitization of men and many of the Women Sarpanchs actively joined the area level campaigns and events. One of them even volunteered to participate in the Sangathan's street play on 'the violations faced by women due to the practice of witch labelling'. These Sarpanchs are now activating Social justice Committees of Panchayats to address issues within the village. Some have approached the Mahila Sangathan to deal with various issues faced by rural women, adolescents and children.
- Principals and teachers of many Schools and colleges expressed that with regards to education about the Constitution, the curriculum is only exam oriented and is not able to inculcate the values, which are integral to the spirit of the Indian democracy. They felt the discussions and dialogue between Fellows and students very effective and appropriate towards building an understanding of true citizenship. Initiatives by teachers included assigning tasks without any discrimination on the basis of caste, religion and gender, Principals ensuring the text of the Preamble be displayed publicly and on their tables and their active involvement in student events conducted by Fellows. Numerous schools/ colleges are observing/celebrating both national days and festivals collectively (students, teachers, parents and SMCs) and discussed the history of festivals, linking them with constitutional values. Constitutional rights and duties of citizens were discussed too.



- Students have also initiated steps in breaking their own stereotypes by building friendships and sharing food with their peers irrespective of their identities. In some colleges, Fellows facilitated the formation of student groups to regularly discuss issues of college, community and country at large and its link to the culture of values of the Constitution.

Using friendship as an approach to spread knowledge and awareness about the constitutional values has helped Fellows to develop a culture of mutual trust, respect diversity and pluralism. They have also been able to successfully help vulnerable communities to access opportunities. Many have become opinion or guidance leaders for peaceful co-existence with improved quality of life.

- **Starting with Self: Breaking one's own discriminatory barriers**

Dharmistha, is a young fellow with qualification in Social Work. She narrates “earlier, I used to not even drink water in a Dalit's house. In my mind there was an absolute truth that one should never drink water from an ‘untouchable's’ house. During one of visits to a village after assuming role as Fellow, I drank water at the home of a Dalit, unaware of the caste identity. Later when a colleague mentioned the caste of the family we visited I was infuriated. I asked her why she did not say anything earlier. When I reached home, I threw up all the water! This thinking and attitude has been transformed today due to my education in constitutional values.

‘My family practiced giving water to Dalits outside our home and pouring it from the top. I had developed this discriminatory attitude too. When I asked my parents the reason for this practice, their response was that, we too, would become untouchable. On asking, what could potentially happen, they did not have a concrete answer. I also shared that through the Fellowship, I have changed my belief and that if we want improvement in society, change to come from within...others in our community will get used to it. A suggestion to experiment the consequence of not following this ritual did not meet with my parents' agreement; they expressed fear of the wrath and ostracisation of our community.

Although Dharmistha's prejudice had disappeared, she believes it will take time for her family and society to get rid of these discriminatory social norms.

- **Reviving fractures between communities**

Inspired by dialogue/discussion around constitutional values as the source of fraternity, a Muslim college student convinced his grandfather (a known community leader) to invite all Hindu friends on the eve of his sisters' marriage. His grandfather was reminded that before the 2002 Gujarat carnage, both Hindus and Muslims resided peacefully, side by side and had friendly relations; participating in each other's occasions and supporting in difficulties. This invitation he felt would rebuild such relationships. In fact, an act by a senior, community leader has shown some impact in bridging the divides between two communities.

## Access to Safe Drinking Water, Sanitation & Hygiene

**Our key experiences** in this Thrust Area lie in developing gender sensitive institutional mechanisms and technologies interwoven with the idea of women's leadership and community participation in planning, implementation and monitoring and feeding these learnings at the policy level.

The glaring issues of safety and security of drinking water which emerged in the founding years of Utthan became a central means for translating into action, its vision of justice, for those last in line. Soon, this became a movement and in 1990 a UN-GOI conference declared using the approach of 'equity through developing local capacities'. Utthan along with others had been promoting the idea of decentralised, people centred water and sanitation with women's leadership and community participation in planning, implementation and monitoring in all its interventions in this sector. Intense advocacy led to the adoption and acknowledgement of these ideas in guidelines of Swajaldhara Scheme, 2002 and in the Gujarat Jal Disha 2010. Additional experience in sanitation (tailor made according to geography, ability and sustainability) was gained through Utthan's People's Learning Centre on Water & Sanitation. In 2016, Utthan took up a three-year collaboration with Bharat Rural Livelihood Foundation (BRLF), an autonomous undertaking of the Government of India (under the aegis of the Ministry of Rural Development) and offered its services as the National Resource Agency for 20 CSOs across 5 states (Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Odisha) in India.

**Our key achievement** in the year 2018-19 was completing the capacity building and monitoring support to 240 villages of 5 States between 2016-19 which led to the leveraging of 11 crores from the respective State Governments for village level water & sanitation needs and 38 villages achieving open-defecation-free status.

### Promoting ideal WASH practices in schools through Demonstration of a viable mechanism

Building a sustainable institutional mechanism to promote and demonstrate WASH related behavioural change and sensitive infrastructure has in our experience provided the scope to reduce the incidence of disease, promote better learning, increase enrollment of girls and children with disabilities and be a vehicle for relaying awareness and education messages and behaviours to the home and community at large.

- **Districts** 02; Mahisagar, Bhavnagar
- **Blocks** 05; Kadana, Lunawada, MorvaHada, Santrampur and Mahuva
- **Villages** 28 Village Schools
- **HHs** 5352 School Children

A three-year focus initiative in 22 schools of Mahisagar district to improve water and sanitation infrastructure through repairing and new construction (22 units) and capacity building of formed School sanitation and hygiene committees, other school children and teachers was successfully completed. Trainings of 22 Gram Sabhas, Village Sanitation Committees (VSCs) Formulation, 3 Masons' Training, 172 Hygiene promotion events for school children and teachers and 257 Technical monitoring events of school sanitation units were taken up. Implementing strategies to build community ownership esp. Behavioural Change Communication strategies remained very vital to ensuring sustainability.

Awareness events were organized in 6 other schools of Santrampur in Mahisagar district and Mahuva in Bhavnagar district.

PIC That access to water and sanitation is a basic right of everyone was something the high-school children in many target villages learnt for the first time. Children in this region got to use a toilet /a urinal for the first time ever in their lives. Efforts in 22 schools over 3 years has raised children's consciousness about person hygiene, especially hand washing. In Surpur village, the installation of a sanitation unit in its Primary school triggered a demonstration effect. 10 students of the school convinced their parents to install similar unit at their homes.



## Institutional Capacity building for Gender – sensitive and Inclusive WASH in communities

An intensive process of learning and support was completed in 2019, a three-year first phase of sustained capacity building of 20 CSOs as the National Resource Agency of BRLF to facilitate an appropriate implementation of inclusive and sustainable water and sanitation programs (WASH). The main components of this capacity building included:

- Building in-house capacities for facilitating WASH implementation in each of the partners
- Building a cadre of master trainers amongst the partners to help scale up the process
- Demonstrating, through exposure visits and demonstrations, field visits (during trainings), and hand holding (post training), appropriate technical alternatives and institutional mechanism towards scaling up the process of implementation of WASH and its sustainability

- **States** 05; Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha
- **Districts** 19
- **Blocks** 24
- **Villages** 240
- **HHs** 34800

Technical alternatives including Eco Sanitation, RRWHs units, toilets for differently abled persons were demonstrated. 41 field & hand holding visits helped to strengthen the 92 Wash Committees. A pool identified by Utthan and CSOs through a consultative and participatory process went through rigorous training and exposure on various concepts and aspects of gender sensitive, inclusive WASH, out of which 12 master trainers emerged. They have already initiated imparting training in their respective CSOs with teams and communities.

In some locations women's groups played a pivotal role in bringing local conducive forces together. Building the capacities of such change makers went a long way in making the positive change sustainable. 28 villages in 4 States becoming open defecation free. In principle, all communities agree that toilets are required but they also point out at the lack of supplementing infrastructure such as inadequate water and electricity supply prove to be major hindrances. The MELD report at the end of the implementation phase was useful.

A compendium of 17 case stories (6 from MP, 1 from Maharashtra and 10 from Odisha) was prepared as part of the activities of documentation and dissemination

- **Community Pressure on Local Administration, Chudaboh**

Chudaboh houses 300+ families, most of them being BPL card holders. In 2016, GoI's most ambitious flagship program, the Swachha Bharat Mission (SBM), which essentially aims at 100% sanitation coverage to prevent open defecation, made way in the village. Initially the community found the terms and conditions too difficult but when they received support and training from Srijan's WASH team they were able to move ahead. The seven-day long training by Utthan which exposed the team to knowledge and skills with respect to water, sanitation and hygiene positively influenced the work closely with community, especially women SHGs. Srijan also trained a group of masons who were slated to get involved in toilets' construction.



Srijan's earlier involvement (undertaking a campaign against serving of alcohol during marriage celebrations, against its local manufacturing) with the women's SHGs paved the way to better participation in & implementation of the SBM efforts at village level. The District administration's pressure on Panchayat to implement it in a mission mode led to a very hasty construction of the toilets. Beneficiaries borrowed construction material from the local traders but when they were not reimbursed with the individual subsidy of Rs. 12000, they in turn did not pay the traders. Presently, in Chudamoh, more than 70% of households boast of a toilet but there has been only a marginal let up in open defecation. Within this larger picture, lies an inspiring story of Lilavatibai, who presides over Durga samooch, one of the seven SHGs Chudamoh has seen getting formed over the years.

Lilavatibai resides in Patthan Tolaila, a hamlet of the village. It comprises of 25 households whose women are the members of Durga samooch. When she approached the PRI members and expressed the group's interest to be covered under the SBM, she found them to be non-cooperative. The women's group continued to pursue the matter very strongly but Panchayat, however, continued to delay it, on one pretext or the other. Durga Samooch members decided to take action. With the support of the Srijan team, the group made a complaint through the official Helpline. A reply was received that the Chief Minister's office would revert after two weeks. The very next day the District collector himself called, saying it would not be possible to take any action because as per records, Chudamoh has already been declared an open defecation free village! However, the group shared that this is far from the truth. What followed, proved to be quite challenging for Lilavatibai and her group.



This led to the Panchayat being pulled up. In turn, Lilavatibai faced verbal abuse at the hands of the 2 Panchayat members. This treatment lasted quite a while but the Samooh did not relent.



Eventually, the SBM project office relented; the records were corrected; the list containing the names of Durga samooh members was submitted; the process of accommodating them as genuine beneficiaries of the SBM began. And ultimately these informed, aware and empowered women got toilets installed in their respective premises.

## Women's Participation in Improving Local Health Services

The effort engaged with multiple formal and informal stakeholders; women, Bhagats, PRI, FRC, SMC&SHG members, ASHAs, AWWs, Bhajan group members and Women's federations. Over 1200 meetings were held across 125 villages with 14000+ participants to build awareness on routine immunization, nutrition, WASH and maternal health. 233 Mamta Day sessions were held in which 4000 participants were mobilised. 10 block level orientation of stakeholders were held through videoshows. Nutrition week celebrations were supported across 10 PHCs. 10000 participants were reached out through 42 bhavai shows and 10 haat bazaarsto build awareness on complete immunization.

- **District** Dahod
- **Blocks** 05
- **Villages** 125
- **PHCs** 10

The socio behavioural change has led to large numbers of adolescent girls and women taking iron tablets, regularity in ASHA/AWW visits, increased participation numbers of lactating mothers and pregnant women in relevant programmes. With increased demand, extra Mamta sessions were held. WASH related awareness led to better hand wash, sanitation and hygiene practices at school and household level.

Strong linkages with block and district functionaries helped to work out a create socio behavioural change & communication action-plan and has been shared with community, block and district level.

## Institutional Building and Leadership Development

Within this thrust area, there is a two-fold focus; one, of Strengthening Utthan as a learning institution and the other, Building self-reliant local institutions with the capacity to independently sustain empowerment and inclusive development processes. It has very successfully facilitated establishment and growth of a large number of community-based institutions viz. Women's Federations, Area Resource groups on, Livelihood, Peace, Water & Sanitation, Watershed Mgmt., Youth issues, Economic Empowerment, Women's Land rights, alternative mechanisms for Justice for violence survivors; some mixed and some comprising only women. As an institution, Utthan has demonstrated the concept of collective leadership and proactively addressed succession and growth.

The answer to a baffling range of concerns Utthan has witnessed in its journey has been leadership, a thread that has united its endeavours since its inception. Leadership efforts have helped connect the preoccupation with water and natural resources to the basic issues of rights, livelihoods and peace. An unwavering emphasis has been on systems that could deliver equity, self-reliance and a central role for women.

**Our key achievement in the year 2018-19 was the initiation of a very systematic processes to hone capacities of the institutional leadership of Utthan. This combined with an impetus to actions with community institutions and our leadership in State level networks helped to pitch our work and experiences in various fora.**

### Strengthening Village leaders & Institutions

Women's rights, overall village and watershed development are issues being taken up by various village level institutions currently supported. Focus on a particular issue also led to a growing sense of overall social consciousness among the members.

- 74 Village Development Committees (VDCs)
- 6 Watershed Development Committees
- Active women's groups in 120 villages

MotasharnayaVDC constituted to look at gender just livelihood strengthening of marginalised in the village actively participated in the campaign on gender justice and livelihood. Sajoi VDC members became active in regular monitoring of Anganwadis, also actively linked with Government departments to tap opportunities for their village. Sustainable agriculture women Master trainers linked up with Women's Sangathans on issues of land rights and awareness on sustainable agriculture.

- **Equitable & People centric VDCs**

Utthan's experience in using Institutional building as a critical base to initiate thinking and action for social change, prompted the formation of Village Development Committees in nearly 70 villages where various livelihood initiatives are being taken up. Identifying leadership from marginalised communities as key actors and partners in the process was an important step in the direction of facilitating and capacitating them to identify and implement strategies to address livelihood challenges. With 66% of membership being women, the effort is to capacitate and provide a space esp. for women to take lead in this process, which we envisage will provide them opportunity to share and improve their existing knowledge, understand and get involved in technological and social planning. Attempts have been made to make the VDCs representative of the existing population of the most marginalised in the village with their representation as nearly 70% of membership.



## Strengthening Block, District & Area level Institutions

### District level Women's Federations

The Federations are one of Utthan's critical partners in the journey for change. Initiated out of the need for a space for women to come together and realize the strength of their collectivization, these Federations have emerged as a local strength in effectively taking issues forward. Utthan's role as mutually agreed upon, is for handholding, capacity and strategy building. Collective strength of Federations and

Utthan boosted the voice of advocacy issues raised. This year's capacity building efforts included:

- Training of the Executive & Aarthik Sashaktikaran Samitis on their role, strategies for action and institutional sustainability
- Refresher trainings of the Nyay Samitis' & Swabhoomi Kendra cadre on feminist interpretation of law, database on survivor support, effective planning for village contact and strategies for advocacy with various stakeholders. Strategic Linkages were made with I- Probono, a non-profit, giving legal assistance and strategic support on the issue of VAW, to support this exercise
- Mandate building & orientation on joint Study on Safety in rural Public spaces
- Regular handholding, leadership building of Sangathan leaders and support in strengthening visibility

Over the year 2709 women joined the Federations. 1529 women have started saving through SHGs in tribal area and collective savings in coastal area in this quarter.

#### • **Samarthan Mahila Sangathan**

Nearly 3000 member strong, SMM has established itself as a women's CBO with a keen interest to grow, explore and lead. A sizeable number of members added were from Dalit, OBC and minority communities. It has demonstrated a model of rotating leadership which brought out a good number of new leaders. The Nyay Samiti and Swabhoomi Kendra ran successfully in providing survivor support and facilitating access to resources and entitlements. To strengthen its microfinance initiatives, SMM made efforts to understand the functioning of Cooperatives and is in the process of finalising its steps in this regard. It also foraged in an exploration of running a low cost sanitary pad distribution network through its own sellers, by utilising its organizational strength and rapport with women. Alongside promotional meetings, awareness on menstrual hygiene awareness was taken up. 3852 women and adolescent girls were outreached and 700 packets were sold. Resource mobilisation efforts to garner support to start collective vermi compost production was met with partial success. 4 women producers have participated in District level Krishi Mela organised in Bhavnagar, and Samarthan Mahila Sangathan won first prize for selling organic sesame seed, sesame oil and crushed paste.

#### • **Vanita Shakti Mahila Sangathan**

Primarily having a tribal membership, the Sangathan has strengthened its support to survivors of violence, women faced with challenges to ownership of their resources due to lack of knowledge on FRA and inheritance rights. New leaders were trained to run the Nyay Samiti. Capacity building of Swabhoomi Kendra paralegals was done with support of WGWLO, nearly 250 new women adopted sustainable agriculture practices. VSMS member, Ratniben's journey in battling for her rightful land supported by the SBK, Utthan & WGWLO was featured in the launch of the #OURLANDOURSTORY campaign. Kantaben and Lilaben Rawat were honoured for their contribution to sustainable agriculture at the Krishimahotsav by ATMA & Agricultural Dept., Dhanpur Block. Vanita Shakti Mahila Sangathan & Utthan co-organized the Dahod leg (with ANANDI) of the all-India Dignity march to raise the critical issue of sexual violence against women and girls.





- **Ekta Mahila Sangathan**

The Sangathan emboldened its diverse membership to 1251 women; 29% tribal, 22%, Hindu, 24% Muslim, 8% Dalits, 8% Christians and 9% women from other communities. It strengthened its Nyayand AarthikSashaktikaranSamitis. 161 survivors were provided counselling support to take relevant action. Negotiation and pressure on families to ensure discontinuation of violation and action at the level of law providing agencies was taken up. Numerous women were linked to Govt. Schemes and entitlements. Some leaders forayed into acting for the first time and created their own skit around VAW and publicly presented it during the AGM in which 650 members participated.

- **Mahila Vikas Sangathan, Rajula**

Utthansupported the strengthening of Nyayand AarthikSashaktikaranSamitis. Good networking with local organisations on the issue of violence against women was taken up. The Sangathan reviewed their financial management practices and is making efforts to systemise the same.

- **Mahila Vikas Sangathan, Mahuva**

The Sangathan reorganised its village membership and prepared women to take leadership on various issues. A large number of women started attending the Gram Sabhas and lack of facilities in the hamlets of most marginalised and safety of women were 2 key issues raised. The NyaySamiti of the Sangathan took up a critical issue of technology related violence impacting women by registering an FIR and ensuring discontinuation of circulation. It linked with the NagrikAdikarManch to condemn mob lynching and resource rights violation in the block.



- **Farmers Producer Organizations (FPOs): Dharti, Navjivan, Sathi, Prakruti and Bhoomi**

With 1959 shareholder households across 18 villages of Dhanpur block, these are the first FPOs in the block. Share certification and digitization process is completed. Application for license has been made and business plans have been submitted. Put together, the FPOs have already received grants worth INR 20 Lakhs and have utilized more than 90%. These NABARD supported institutions need considerable handholding support to strengthen leadership and entrepreneurial skills.

## Strengthening Utthan as an institution

Strong internal processes for good governance and collective decision making: Regular and mandated institutional meetings of the Management Committee, Governance & Statutory Finance Committee, Programme Steering Committee & the Board helped facilitate and guide strategic decision making, course correction and future visioning.

The Annual Meeting held in July, focused on a reflective process towards collective visioning for the coming 3 yrs. Capacity building & advocacy emerged as two core strategies and thus the need to sharpen them. A recommendation to work around the organisation's architecture to ensure interventions become historic was made. This was followed by designing a capacity building exercise for strengthening institutional leadership within Utthan.

A four day Human Process Laboratory was held as a step to understand one's own self and thus the organisation. It was an intensive exercise, facilitated by experts in social and behavioural sciences. The concept was to consider each and every person as a resource and the clarity that emotions and feelings of each person can generate useful data which can help the individual and ultimately, the organisation to grow. The extremely emotional process

pushed team members to distance themselves from their work, roles, personal and organisational pasts to express their innermost feelings and experiment with the reactions received and do away with hesitation, biases and assumptions about each other.

- **Networking & Advocacy**

As a key strategy, grassroots issue were regularly shared in various networks, alliances, with local government collective. This helped to strategize and advocate the issues of marginalised communities.

Leadership in networks: Utthan is part of decision making bodies at State and national level; Pravah, Janpath, Working Group for Women & Land Ownership, Sajjata Sangh, Janpath & in Mahila Kisan Adhikar Manch (MAKAAM), India Wash Forum and the SDG 6 National Committee formed by FANSA & Wada na Todo Abhiyan to collectively report on WASH.

Some critical issues faced by women in the arena of women's land/property/forest rights, community resource rights, safety and security of women, access to water and sanitation were raised with relevant departments and at various fora.

The last year saw important markers of visibility & recognition of Utthan, as an organization advocating on issues faced by the marginalized esp. women, contributing to the discourse and having demonstrated alternatives for learning. Our active participation and acknowledgements include:

- International Land Coalitions's Global Land Forum in Bandung, Indonesia, 2018: Represented GWLO, co-facilitated a Session on Sharing of innovative strategies to advance women's land/inheritance rights. The need for creating collaborative platforms within the system to facilitate effective implementation of laws and policies pertaining to women's rights to land access to natural resources, ensuring gender sex-disaggregated data on women's land ownership and a gender just support system that responds timely and adequately to the needs of women seeking land tenure was emphasized upon.
- India Land & Development Conference (ILDC) in Delhi in March 2019 individually and as part of the GWLO delegation, the latter being one of the Knowledge partners for the Conference. GWLO and Utthan's participation helped raise critical issues of how the rights to land of women and marginalised are being impacted.
- Panelist in the Session, 'Status of Women Food Producer and Policy Recommendations for Recognition of their Identity' organised by India Land Coalition- NES: paper presented on Women and their Dependency on Forest for livelihoods, ILDC 2019
- 'Supporting single, widowed women in challenging power structures and battling for their rightful land': A Journey of Ratniben Bhabhor from Vanita Shakti Mahila Sangathan with the support of Utthan & GWLO; was featured in the launch of the #OURLANDOURSTORY campaign by The Land Portal, Cadasta Foundation and NRMCA at the ILDC.



- Representing WGWLO at State & National level:
  - Co-led the organization of MAKAAAMs Western Region Consultation on Gender & Forest Rights
  - Panelist in the Session on 'Land, Investment and Conflicts' organised by NRMCC-CLG & UNDP-India at ILDC 2019: paper presented on the Impact of Globalisation on Women's Land Rights
  - Panelist at National Conference on Family Farming organized by SEWA
- Awarded the 'Best Performing WDF project in 2018-19 for its outstanding work on Watershed Development in Lukhadia- Kundawada villages, Dhanpur block, Dahod district by NABARD.
- 3 case stories featured in NABARDs publication, Success Stories: Transforming Lives: Watershed development Projects in Gujarat.





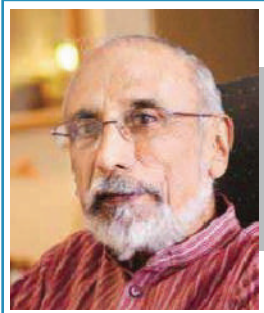
## Utthan's Board



**Mr. Vijay Parmar**  
Chairperson,  
Managing Trustee, Janvikas



**Mr. Binoy Acharya**  
Member,  
Director, UNNATI & President,  
Voluntary Agency Network India (VANI)



**Mr. Ashoke Chatterjee**  
Member,  
Former Director,  
National Institute of Design



**Dr. Sudarshanlyengar**  
Member,  
Former Vice Chancellor,  
Gujarat Vidyapith,  
presently associated with ARCH



**Ms. Nafisa Barot**  
Member,  
Founder & Former Director, Utthan



**Dr. Sara Ahmed**  
Member,  
Adjunct Professor,  
Ahmedabad University



**Ms. Neelima Khetan**  
Member,  
Former Director, Sewa Mandir



**Prof. Alka Parikh**  
Member,  
Dhirubhai Ambani Institute of  
Information & Communication  
Technology

## Partners in Transformation



...and several individuals

## Networks and Alliances

State and National Level	International Level
Working Group on Women and Land Ownership	Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council
Sajjata Sangh	Water and Environmental Sanitation Network Water Conflict Forum
Pravah	South Asia Consortium for Inter Disciplinary Waters
Mahila Kisan Adhikar Manch	Global Water Partnership
Janpath	Gender Water Alliance
India Wash Forum	Freshwater Action Network South Asia
Gujarat Mahila Manch	Feminist Alliance for Rights
	Capnet

# Accounts and Transparency

## UTTHAN, AHMEDABAD.

### BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31.03.2019

Amounts in Indian Rupees

PARTICULARS	ANNX.	FC	INDIAN	TOTAL(2018-19)	2017-18
<b>FUNDS AND LIABILITIES</b>					
CORPUS FUND AND ASSET FUNDS	1	10,61,418	11,91,440	22,52,858	20,05,387
GENERAL AND EARMARKED FUNDS	2	3,61,329	16,89,122	20,50,451	19,72,315
UNUTILISED GRANTS	3	4,39,612	74,90,954	79,30,567	28,20,996
CURRENT LIABILITIES	4	-	3,21,895	3,21,895	2,79,083
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT	5	(53,613)	11,42,358	10,88,745	(7,977)
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>18,08,746</b>	<b>1,18,35,769</b>	<b>1,36,44,515</b>	<b>70,69,804</b>
<b>ASSETS AND PROPERTIES</b>					
FIXED ASSETS	6	9,56,698	6,71,969	16,28,667	14,19,710
INVESTMENTS	7	2,55,333	73,73,661	76,28,994	12,08,664
CURRENT ASSETS	8	5,96,715	37,90,139	43,86,854	44,41,431
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>18,08,746</b>	<b>1,18,35,769</b>	<b>1,36,44,515</b>	<b>70,69,804</b>

As per our report attached  
For B C M Associates  
Chartered Accountants  
FRN 100808W

Bharat Mehta  
Partner  
Membership No. 030268  
Ahmedabad.  
Dated 07.06.2019



For Utthan

Trustee

Ahmedabad.  
Dated 07.06.2019

# UTTHAN, AHMEDABAD.

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD 01.04.2018 TO 31.03.2019

Amounts in Indian Rupees

PARTICULARS	ANN	FC	INDIAN	TOTAL(2018-19)	2017-18
<b>INCOME</b>					
GRANTS	9	5,22,513.00	2,41,59,521.59	2,46,82,034.59	1,23,31,642.05
DONATION	10	-	1,05,000.00	1,05,000.00	2,25,620.00
OTHER INCOME	11	7,500.00	27,68,320.00	27,75,820.00	20,76,548.00
INTEREST INCOME	12	37,376.38	1,00,860.47	1,38,236.85	1,49,227.53
SCRAP SALE INCOME		-	-	-	8,750.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>5,67,389.38</b>	<b>2,71,33,702.06</b>	<b>2,77,01,091.44</b>	<b>1,50,48,166.62</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
EXPENDITURE ON OBJECTS OF THE TRUST	13&14	5,23,058.00	2,43,75,609.58	2,48,98,667.58	1,28,57,151.45
ESTABLISHMENT EXPENSES	14	4,859.00	11,64,617.20	11,69,476.20	18,69,501.44
CONTRIBUTION TO ADMINISTRATIVE FUND OF THE CHARITY COMMISSIONER	-	-	-	-	32,155.00
REMUNERATION TO TRUSTEES	-	-	4,14,000.00	4,14,000.00	3,60,000.00
AUDIT FEES	-	-	1,22,226.00	1,22,226.00	1,49,176.00
DEPRECIATION	6	1,24,921.00	1,69,562.00	2,94,483.00	2,59,014.00
DEPRECIATION RECOUPED	1	1,24,921.00	1,69,562.00	2,94,483.00	2,56,379.04
PROJECT EXPENSES ABSORBED BY UTTHAN		-	-	-	2,634.96
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>5,27,917.00</b>	<b>2,60,76,452.78</b>	<b>2,66,04,369.78</b>	<b>1,52,70,618.85</b>
<b>EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>39,472.38</b>	<b>10,57,249.28</b>	<b>10,96,721.66</b>	<b>(2,22,452.22)</b>
Adjustments relating to prior year/s		-	-	-	36,410.00
<b>Excess of income over expenditure / (Excess</b>		<b>39,472.38</b>	<b>10,57,249.28</b>	<b>10,96,721.66</b>	<b>(5,15,241.27)</b>

As per our report attached  
For B C M Associates  
Chartered Accountants  
FRN 100808W

Bharat Mehta  
Partner  
Membership No. 030268  
Ahmedabad.  
Dated 07.06.2019



For Utthan

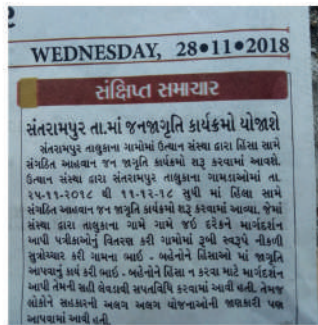
Trustee

Ahmedabad.  
Dated 07.06.2019



## In the Media

Efforts to link up with media helped visibilise critical issues identified by communities. Along with sensitization of media, it helped to highlight efforts of Women's Federations, Utthan team and their linkages with Panchayats, block and district administration.



### માનવ અધિકાર અંતર્ગત મૂંબેશ

ભાવનગર | ઉત્થાન અને સમર્થન મહિલા સંગઠન દ્વારા આગામી તા. 10 ડિસેમ્બર સુધી મહિલા હિંસા અને અધિકારો અંગે ભાવનગર, ધોધા અને તથાજા તાલુકાના 35 ગામોમાં આયોજીત અભિયાન અંતર્ગત વિવિધ પ્રવૃત્તિઓ હાથ ધરાશે. તા. 10-12 ના ભાવનગરમાં ઉપરોક્ત બંને સંગઠનો દ્વારા એક દિવસીય ઇવેન્ટ કરાશે.

PIC-COLLAGE

## No violence against women: 12 villages pledge

Ahmedabad: As many as 12 gram panchayats in Mahisagar and Dahod districts have passed a resolution making the villages free from all forms of violence against women. The campaign is carried out by Uttan, a non-profit organisation working on empowering vulnerable communities by promoting gender justice and sustainable development. In the first eight days of the campaign in Dahod, Mahisagar, Bhavnagar and Amreli districts, more than 4,000 signatures were received from 18 villages backing the call for ending gender violence. **ENS**



CV News/ December 05, 2018



Ahmedabad NGO Utthan's 16 day campaign to end violence against women in Gujarat's rural areas is half way, and has so far covered 18 villages. The campaign saw active participation of 4,000 people, with 12 gram panchayats -- six from Mahisagar



## મહિલાઓ સામે હિંસા અટકાવવા અભિયાન

મહુવા બ્યુરો/ 1 ડિસેમ્બર છે. જેમાં હિંસા મહિલાઓ અને દિકરીઓ ઉપર થતી સામાજિક લીંગભેદ (જેન્ડર) આધારીત હિંસા નાબુદ કરવા માટે સક્રિય કાર્યવાહી એક અભિયાન સ્વરૂપે કરવામાં આવી રહી છે.

ઉત્થાન સંસ્થાન મહુવા અને સ્થાનિક નાગરીક અધિકાર મંચ દ્વારા એક અભિયાન શરૂ કરાયું છે. જેમાં સામે સંગઠિત આહવાન 10 ડિસેમ્બર-2018 માનવ અધિકાર દિવસ સુધી મહુવા, જેસર અને રાજુલા તાલુકાના 15 ગામોમાં

## સિવિક અને સોશિયલ સર્વિસ ઈન્ટર્નશિપ



પંડિત દીનદયાળ પેટ્રોલિયમ યુનિવર્સિટીમાં ચાલી રહેલા બી. ટેક કોર્સકુલમના ભાગરૂપે સ્ટુડન્ટ્સે 21 દિવસની સિવિક અને સોશિયલ સર્વિસ ઈન્ટર્નશિપમાં જવાનું છે. આ ઇન્ટર્નશિપ માટે કુલ 680 વિદ્યાર્થીઓ આજના ભારતની આઠગ અલગ સંસ્થાઓમાં કામ કરવા જશે. આ વર્ષે આ સ્ટુડન્ટ્સે ભારત સરકારના વિકાસ પ્રોજેક્ટ માટે પણ કામ કરવાનું બંધી કર્યું છે. જેમાં તેઓ આ પોર્ટલ અપડેટ કરવા માટે પણ કામ કરશે. આ સ્ટુડન્ટ્સને વિકાસપ્રી ડિવાળા ઓફિસર નમિતા ખસ્ટીવાએ પ્રોજેક્ટનો માહિતી આપી હતી. આ એ પ્રકારનો પ્રોગ્રામ છે કે જેમાં સ્ટુડન્ટ્સને દેશ અને બીજા નાગરિકો માટે ફર્નું કરવાનો અને ડેમોક્રસીને વધારે મજબૂત કેવી રીતે કરી શકાય તેનો ખ્યાલ આવશે.

Ahmedabad Samay



# Looking Ahead

As Utthan looks back and looks ahead, a two-fold strategy emerges of 'Deepening existing efforts and influence' & 'Scaling up', while still holding innovation, experimentation and learning as extremely relevant. Equity, in its original meaning, will remain its steady purpose, and as the anchor in all its efforts at resolving conflicts.

AmartyaSen's concept of going to scale – "Expansion of freedom, both as the primary end and as the principal means of development"– lends voice to Utthan's interests and aspirations for the future.





Utthan is a public charitable trust registered in 1981 under the Bombay Public Trusts, Act 1950. Donation to Utthan are exempt from Income tax under Section 80G of the Income tax Act, 1961. Foreign donations are also authorized as per Utthan's registration under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act.

#### Registered office : Utthan



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